



Connections

2006 Legend

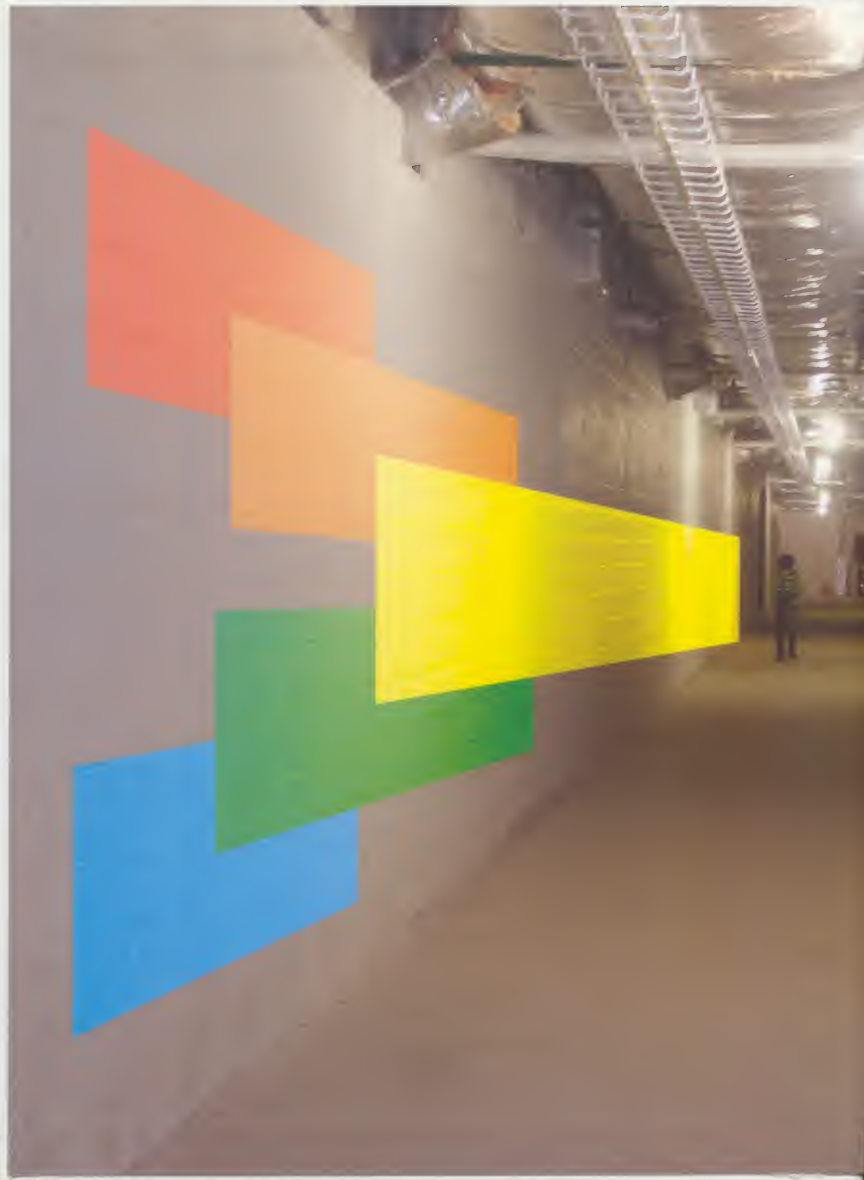


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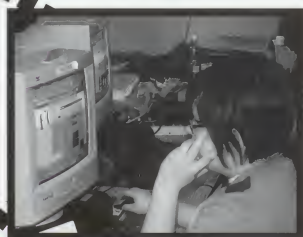
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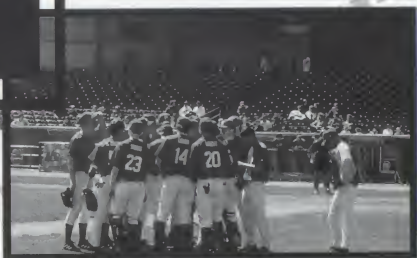
Connections

Legend 2005-2006, vol. 65

*Portage High
School
6450 US Hwy 6
Portage, IN
46368*

A connection is defined as, an association or relationship between things or events. Based on this definition, Portage High School provides the proper atmosphere for the observation of connections. Connections provide the basis for learning, excelling, growth, and human relationships that are necessary in a learning environment.





Words such as team, clique, circle of friends, and academy are words directly associated with student connections. Connections with these certain people are often times made at a young age and carried throughout one's high school career. Each collection of people have their own group that they have found a common bond with, whether it be the result of a particular sport played or an interest in the same club or organization. These common ties between students fuse together at various times during the course of ones life. High school, in the grand scheme of things, will be remembered as simply one chapter in the life of an individual while the true connections made during these four years have the capability to transcend time creating lasting relationships.

As a freshman, bonds between teachers, students, friends, and faculty begin to develop as a student starts their high school career. One element linking students together is academics. Academics offer a way to choose a potential career path and make it the central idea amongst all of one's classes.

Upon the completion of the school day some students cluster together freeing themselves of the academic day, to join interest in the various organizations and clubs offered. These clubs and organizations present an outlet supervised by different faculty members where students are able to come together to express themselves in a constructed manor. Whatever your interests, a group can be found meeting after school to discuss that particular interest. Clubs range from established ones such as the art club and reading club to more recent additions like the anime club and the video game club.

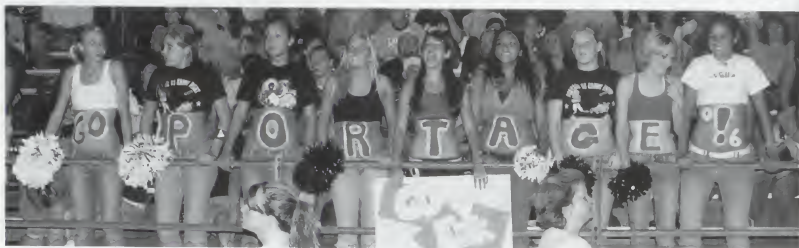


Not only do clubs and organizations provide a place for similar interests, but the athletic department does as well. The bands, cheerleaders, prom dancers, and the athletic team join together at sporting events to provide entertainment for all. Teams form deep family-like relationships due to all the time that is dedicated to the particular sport. In the sports, students come together to achieve a common goal, whether it be to win the game or match or achieve their personal best. The sports teams not only provide strong bonds between the athletics but they also bring the entire community together to show their support.

Overall a student's life is filled with connections. From being voted homecoming or prom queen to Mr. Football and king by the student body, the students are where the real connections can be found. Students perform in activities such as the variety show, Junior Miss, DYM, the fall play, and the spring musical, where they meet many people they may not have associated with without these activities. The annual Student Faculty Basketball Game is yet another way that the faculty connects with the students.

Connections are evident everywhere in high school. Some of these more obvious than others like friendships. These connections made throughout high school help shape and form a person to who they are. These connections are the ones that will be held close to a person, and will be remembered throughout a person's life as to where they began becoming the person that they are.

SENIOR



Christine Abram

Amber Albrecht

Radley Alcantara

Business Professionals of America 12, Foreign
Language Honor Society 10-12, Student Council 9-12,
Latin Club 9, 11, 12, National Honor Society 11, 12,
Natural Helpers 11, 12, Aces 12, Soccer 9-12,
Swimming 9-12, Spring Musical 11, OYM 12, Airband
10, Homecoming Court 11, 12, Junior Miss Escort 11,
Prom Court 11, Class President 12,

Christopher Alimandinger

Samantha Amore

Vocational Honor Society 11, 12, Environmental Club
9, 12, Athletic Trainers 11, Basketball 9, 10, Student
Faculty Basketball Game 9

Jacob Anderson

Richard Arndt

Aaron Barnes

Brittany Barnett

Katherine Batista

Brittany Bennett

Academic Team 9, 12, Concert Band 10, Marching
Band 10, 11, Hosa 11

Brent Bielak

Scott Biggs

Brandon Biller

Christina Blackwell

Choir 9-12, Cross Country 9-12, Track 9-12, Variety
Show 12





Ashley Blonaki
 Senior Girls Dance, 12
Jessica Bolint
 Student Council 9, Poms 9,10, Natural Helpers 11,
 Legend 11, Spring Musical 9,10, 12, Fall Play 11,
 Variety Show 11, 12, Junior Miss 11
Whitney Bowen
Whitney Bowman
Airen Brown

Tiffany Brunner
Michael Burke
Jonice Burton
Chester Cameron
Brandon Campbell

Jessica Carrasco
Megan Cary
Sarah Cates
 Student Council 12
Priscilla Catlin
Amber Chaja

Alisha Clatcher
April Clowers
 Choir 9, 12
Jeffrey Cluff
Stephanie Coffman
Brandon Cook

Nathan Cordova
Nolan Corlett
Mary Craighead
Jeremy Crandall
Alex Crist

Erin Crowley
Paul Cruss
Andrew Culp
 Legend 11, 12
Gregory Curlet
Melissa Dabu

Allison Deut
Jeremy Davies
Lindsey Davis
Randall Dawkins
Cory Dehnart



During the senior girl dance the girls threw their arms in the air to get the crowd pumped up. The girls meet a few days a week for a couple of weeks to learn and perfect the dance coreography.

At the powder puff football game senior, Rachel Reed gathers with her teammates and claps in excitement for the game about to start. Reed also played her junior year in the powder puff game.



Tesha Demaris
Benjamin DeStJean
Stephan Devaney
Stephanie Devitte
Cody Dexter



Jeffrey Disney
Shane Dixon
Cody Drees
Jessica Elkin
Jared Engel



Matthew Eriks
Brittany Espoito
Kristopher Evans
Anna Fannin
Sarah Felter



Matthew Fifield
Abby Fink
James Flannery
Kara Fornari
Kimberly Frazier



Shawna Freeman
Joseph Gainer
Kevin Gale
Justin Garza
Stephen Glaser





Mallory Goin
Sarah Gomez
Jaclyn Gore
Allison Gossett
Tara Hagan
Hosa 12

Steven Halfman
Bryan Hall
Jennifer Hall
Saga 11, 12
Melinda Hamilton
Stephanie Hanna

Daniel Harrison
Matthew Hemry
Flame Hicks
Volleyball 9, 11 Hosa 11, 12, Multicultural Club 12,
Athletic Trainers 12, Natural Helpers 12
Christopher Higgins
Paul Hobgood

Jessica Hodges
Natural Helpers 11, Legend 10-12, Poms 9, 10, Fall
Play 11, Spring Musical 10, Variety Show 11,
Homecoming Court 12, Junior Miss 11
Christopher Hoover
Spanish Guitar Club 9, 10, JROTC 9-11, Pow Wow 10,
Legend 10, Printing Technology 10-12
Allison Horner
Blair Horner
Ronell Hulse
Cheerleading 9-12, Hosa 11, 12

Aiyssa Ingram
Poms 9-11, Variety Show 12
Jessica James
Alicia Jarosak
Student Faculty Basketball 11, Powder Puff 12,
Senior Girls Dance 12
Brenten Jenks
Tech Club 10, 11
Veronica Jimenez



At the pep rally for homecoming, the senior football players sit together to watch the different performances. The seniors are each announced individually as they come out on the floor for the pep rally.

Robin Johnson
Lisa Jones
Concert Band 9-11, Marching Band 9-11, Hosa 11, 12
Nicole Jones
Shannon Jones
Anthony Joseph



Whitney Taylors Keeling
Nathan Kellams
Amber Kemp
Benjamin Kerezman
Sarah Kirincic



Sheri Kiszkan
Natalie Kovachevich
Nickolas Kozik
Kristofer Kremke
Alycia Laboy



Colette Langbauer
Cheerleading 9-12, Variety Show 11, Prom Court 11,
OTM Escort 12, Student Council 12
Melissa Latronica
Kristen Lee
Volleyball 9, Choir 9, Softball 9-12, Hosa 11, 12,
Danielle Leimbach
Donald Lentz
Student Council 9-12, Foreign Language Honor Society
11, OTM 12

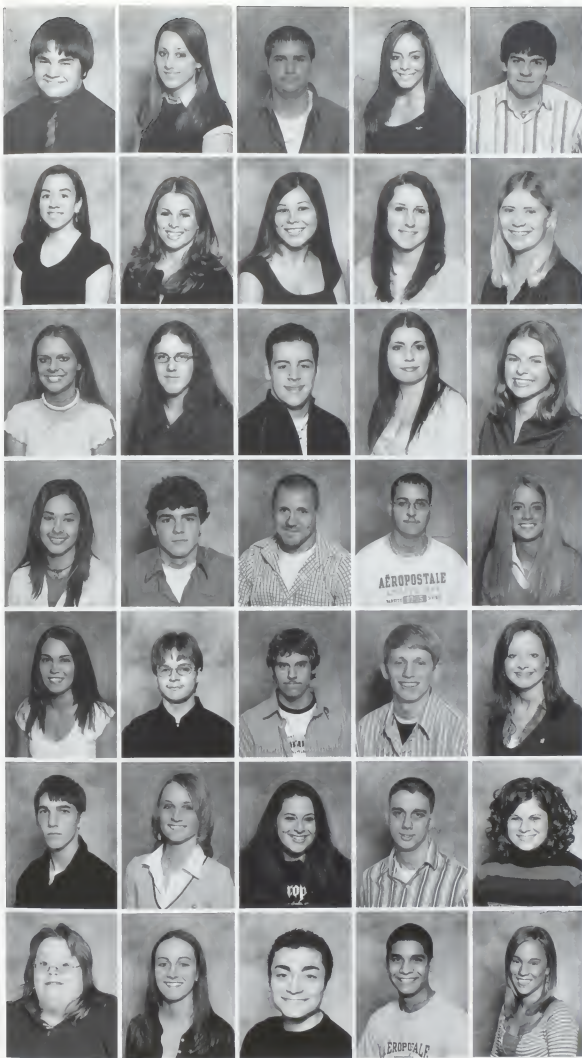


Brian Letica
Wilita Lewis
Robert Liesch
Marching Band 9, Concert Band 9, Symphonic Band
10-12, Natural Helpers 11, 12, Thespians 10-12,
Tennis 10-12, Track 0-12, Fall Play 10, 12, Spring
Musical 12, OTM 12, Student Faculty Basketball
Game 9, Airband 10, 12
Christopher Longo
Aaron Lopez



Andres Magana
Mark Magana
Thomas Marion
VHS 11
Chance Matthews
Michael McCormick





Thattus McMurray
Allyssa Medanich
Ross Mendewicz
Kristin Mendez
Anthony Mendizabal
 Football 9-11, Fall Play 12, OYM

Alicia Mendoza
Jessica Metz
 Soccer 9, Gymnastics 9-12, Cheerleading 10, 12,
 Variety Show 11, Junior Miss 11
Natasha Miller
Natalie Milligan
Kate Mills

Nikita Momola
David Montgomery
 Foreign Language Honor Society 11, 12, Latin Club
 11, 12, Tech Club 12, Tae Kwon Do 10, 11, Aces 12,
Joseph Morales
 Student Council 9, 10, Foreign Language Honor
 Society 11, 12, Choir 9-12, Thespians 9-12, Football
 9, 10, 12, Basketball 9, Spring Musical 9-12, OYM 12,
 Student Faculty Basketball Game 9, Airtand 10,
 Variety Show 11, Homecoming Court 11, 12 Junior
 Miss Escort 11, Academic Hall of Fame 12, Prom
 Court 11
Yolanda Morin
Jennifer Mose

Natalie Moyado
 Orchestra 9-12, Natural Helpers 12, Soccer 9-12,
 Track 10, Spring Musical 10, 12, Homecoming Court
 12, Junior Miss 11
Christopher Murray
David Murray
Joshua Myers
Kristen Myers

Nicole Nelson
 Basketball 9, Foreign Language Honor Society 10-12,
 Homecoming Court 11, Aces 12
Christopher Nichols
 German Club 9
Ryan Nichols
Bryan Norkus
 Foreign Language Honor Society 11, 12, Student
 Council 10-12, National Honor Society 11, 12,
 Academic Team 11, Tech Club 10, Aces 12, Soccer 9,
 10, OYM 12, Student Faculty Basketball Game 11, 12,
 Sophomore Class Club 10, Junior Class Club 11
Ashley Norman
 Basketball 9, 10, Concert Band 9, Softball 9-12, Hosa
 11, 12,
Christopher O'Daniel
Sara Olson
Mande Pavliagous
Joseph Pankiewicz
Crystal Passananti

Christina Pearson
Svetlana Pekovic
 Foreign Language Honor Society 11, 12, Student
 Council 11, 12, Latin Club 12, National Honor Society
 12, Academic Team 10, 11, 12, Aces 12, Spring
 Musical 12
Joel Perez
Jose Perez Jr.
Krista Perry
 Powder Puff 11, 12, Senior Girls Dance 12, Girls
 Swimming 11

At a wrestling meet senior, Troy Hill stands prepared ready to start his match. Hill has been a member of the wrestling team through out highschool and has been wrestling for a large point of his life.



What was the most memorable moment of senior year?



"One of my favorite memories is being able to help choregraph and teach the OYM fitness routine. Being involved was a lot of fun."
Katherine Batista, 12



"I would have to say going to all the baseball games with my best friends and being in the senior girls dance."
Ashley Blonski, 12



"Aces banquet because I was able to choose my own teacher, it was closing my twelve years in a single decision."
Svetlana Pekovic, 12

Ryke Pfeiffer
Fall Play 9-12, Spring Musical 9-12, OYM Tech Crew
Airband 9-12, Variety Show 9-12, 9-12, Art Club 9-10,
Thespians 9-12, Legend 11, 12,
Justin Poe
Matthew Purcell
Cross Country 9, 10, Track 9-12
Rachael Ramirez
Choir 9-12, Soccer 9-12, National Honor Society 11,
12, Natural Helpers 12, Basketball 9, 10, Spring
Musical 11, 12, Homecoming Court 11, 12, Junior
Miss 11, Senior Girls Dance 12

Mandi Rance
Mallory Rappatta
Homecoming Court 11, 12
Joshua Rebeck
Kimberly Redden
Legend 10-12, Poms 10, Fall Play 11, Variety Show
11, Junior Miss 11
Rachel Reed

Andrew Repay
Concert Band 9-12, Symphonic Band 9-12, Basketball
9-12
Erik Rhein
Wrestling 9-12, Football 9-12, Baseball 9, 11, Foreign
Language Honor Society 11, 12, Aces 12, OYM 12,
Homecoming Court 12
Brittany Rigoni
Jeffrey Robb
Kristopher Robinson

Megan Rodriguez
Jessica Rogers
Danielle Rosario
Hosa 11, 12,
April Rousseau
Art Club 12, Latin Club 12
Eric Ruiz





Lauren Ruzga
Golf 9-12, Swimming 9-12, Fall Play 12, Spring Musical 12
Amanda Sabie
Fall Play 12, Fall Play 11, 12, Spring Musical 11, 12
Kristie Sandoval
Jeffrey Sattler
Sarah Scharpf

Benjamin Schiller
Lisa Schima
Colleen Scott
Orchestra 9-11, Volleyball 9-12, Softball 9-12, Natural Helpers 12
Brooke Sechrest
Nicole Seefeldt

Michelle Serrano
John Serratto
Soccer 9, 10, Variety Show 11
Aaron Shebesh
Michael Sinkus
Baseball 9-12, Vocational Honor Society 12
Hitch Slowik

Jennifer Jean Smith
Korea Smith
Megan Smith
Football 9-12, Track 9-12, OYM 12
Jennifer Spence

Lindsey Stanford
Joshua Stanley
Amanda Stasik
Alexandra Stewart
Foreign Language Honor Society 10-12, Student Council 9-12, Latin Club 9-12, National Honor Society 11, 12, Choralkers 9, Choir 9-11, Natural Helpers 11, 12, Aces 12, Thespians 9-12, Swimming 11, Fall Play 9-12, Spring Musical 9-12, Airband 9-11, Variety Show 9-11, Homecoming Court 12, Junior Miss 11, 12, Senior Girls Dance 12
Christine Stewart

Andrew Stills
William Stoll
Randi Stone
Orchestra 9-12, Spring Musical 12
Kenneth Sullivan
Alexander Supp

Michael Suthers
Football 9-11, Track 9-12
Kaitlyn Talley
Samantha Tampier
Stephanie Tanis
Vocational Honor Society 12, Hoes 11, 12, National
Honor Society 11, 12, Pow Wow 10, Thespians 9-12,
Cheerleading 12, Poms 9-11, Spring Musical 9-12,
Student Faculty Basketball Game 11, Airband 11,
Vanity Show 11, Junior Miss 11, Prom Court 11
Brandy Targgart



Eric Tharp
Karlia Thomas
Joshua Thorn
Megan Tiernan
Natural Helpers 12, Cheerleading 9-11, Junior Miss
11, Senior Girls Dance 12
Robert Tomas



David Tomaszewski
Brock Townsend
JROTC 9-12
Robert Troup
Jordan Tutball
Ashley Urbanek
French Club 10, Latin Club 10-12, Foreign Language
Honor Society 11, 12, National Honor Society 12,
Arrowhead Ambassadors 11, 12, Junior Class Club
11, Aces 12



Darren Urquidí
Gabriel Valbiera
Adam Walters
Kimberly Weiland
Nicole Weldon



Brandon Welshan
Lisa Whitworth
Latin Club 9-11, Golf 9-12, Swimming 9-12, Foreign
Language Honor Society 10, Track 10, Vocational
Honor Society 11, 12, Student Court 11, 12, National
Honor Society 11, 12, Natural Helpers 11, 12,
Katie Wilk
Jeffrey Wilken
Brittany Williams
Concert Choir 9, Glee 10, 11, Choralers 11, 12,
Symphonic Band 12



Branden Wilson
Nicole Yates
Aaron Yover
Zachary Zygowicz



Not Pictured:

Scott Adams
Jacob Ahlborn
Shannon Alexander
Enrique Alvarez
David Anderson
Rochelle Anderson
Stephen Anderson
James Andresen
Raymond Anthonijsz
Jonathon Appelman
Geshe Araujo Filho
Brandon Bailey
Jessica Bannister
Keisha Barajas
Katherine Barnes
Natacha Basile
Norman Basile
Aaron Beeson
Brandon Bennett
Nolan Bernger
Chad Biddle
Jared Blais
Michael Bodnar
Angela Bool
Maria Bravo
Asia Brown
Matthew Bryan
Amanda Burch
Adrian Bustos
Billy Caldwell
Christopher Camery
Antonio Camisa
Jasmine Caraballo
Magali Castaneda
Froylan Cervantes
Joshua Charlson
Daniel Chavez
Dominic Chepekko
Randi Clarich
Casey Claxton
Jordan Clough
Adam Cody
Cristen Coffey
Jerry Cole
Joseph Cole
Stefan Colville
Bryttyn Contreras
Sarah Cooper
Tiffany Cooper
Thomas Corey
Yasmin Corral
Lizette Corrales
Joelene Craig
Cassandra Creech
Michaela Creviston
Cheryl Crowder
Alan Dally
Terrence Danapas

Buck Davich
Ashley Davis
Danyelle Davis
Joselyn Davis
Rebekah Davis
Cassandra Dawson
Jonathan Denk
Mark Dietz
William Dillin
Anthony DiTola
Theodore Dlouhy
Ryanne Doherty
Ashlee Duca
Lauren Dunning
Felix Duron
Amanda Feeney
Elisia Feliciano
Alexandria Fernandez
James Field
William Figueroa
Everette Foster
Christen Frank
Kylie Frank
Michael Frank
Marissa Gamez
Ashley Ganske
Jason Garcia
Stephanie Garner
Kali Gibson
Zachary Giesler
Brandon Gilbert
Amber Gilmer
Monica Goheen
Megan Goodman
Jared Grabill
Paul Grabill
Alejandra Guerrero
Samantha Gurley
Caroline Hamann
Rachel Haner
Jordan Hankel
Shana Hardesty
Tiffany Harrison
Jordan Hart
Paris Hayden
Stephanie Healy
Robert Heck
Crystal Hedger
Maria Hernandez
Rachel Hewitt
Kimberly Hickman
Troy Hill
Carl Hipelius
Stephanie Hood
Stephen Hopper
Tayler Hussain
Thomas Ivey
Kyle Jacobs

Troy Janik
Christopher Jillson
Thomas John
Kyle Johnson
Darryal Jones
Timothy Juchcinski
Brian Juratich
Keith Kaminski
Rachel Kanich
Jessica Keene
Kyle Kelly
Kathy Kladis
Kraig Kmiotek
Megan Knudsen
Kristofer Kremke
Michael Kushneruk
Marcus Kuta
Christopher Labno
Michael Ladendorf
Ronald Lapine
Raul Leal
Camille Lewandowski
Nathan Lewis
Alisha Lira
Jessica Lombardo
Christina Lopez
Gary Lovingood
John Ludwig
Nicole Lunn
Steven Lunn
Zachary Manoski
Viera Marjanov
Alexesse Marquez
Victoria Marsh
Jeremiah Martin
Christopher Martinez
Claudia Martinez
Britany Massom
Raymond Mauch
Autumn McCormick
Brittany McCready
Kayla McCurdy
Jeremy McDonald
Hannah McKee
Victoria Meanovich
Samantha Meints
Lucas Melton
Joshua Mendez
Stephanie Merket
Dennis Meyers
Sara Mikenas
Margaret Miley
Patricia Miley
Jessica Mitchell
Nicholas Mitchell
Adam Moehl
Katie Moehl
Anthony Molnar

Murshid Moore
William Moorhead
David Mueller
Jaclyn Mullen
April Mullins
Brendan Mulroe
Sara Mustafa
Matthew Myers
Manuel Nardini
Jacklyn Neace
Brittney Newcomb
Tuong Vi Nguyen
Thomasena Nunez
Stephanie Nuzzo
Richard O'Reilly
Jordan Oakes
Christopher Osterman
David Padilla
Melody Palmer
Christopher Parish
Clifford Parker
Jessica Parks
Vishad Patel
Tiffany Patterson
Kimberly Payne
Rachel Pekar
Anthony Pennington
William Peterson
Christopher Phillips
Mary Porter-Sims
Erica Pride
Bryan Priest
Emily Pruijm
Ashley Pullen
Raymond Purdy
Levi Quinton
Drew Ramsey
Aaron Ratigan
Dennis Reedy
Tiffany Reyes
Nathan Reynolds
Danielle Riggs
Alicia Robinson
Alejandro Rodriguez
Crystal Rodriguez
Timothy Rodriguez
Daniel Rogers
Courtney Rogers-Suit
Mercedes Roman
Rommie Roman
Matthew Rose
Lindsey Russ
Michael Salazar
Giovanni Sanchez
Jonathan Sanchez
Ashley Sandlin
Marc Santarromana
Emilio Saylor

James Schneider
Amanda Scholz
Kelly Schoon
Jamie Shay
Michelle Shearer
Joshua Shippen
Katerina Sibakoska
Alexander Skoutaris
Justin Smith
Teresa Smith
Danny Soria
Nathaniel Sosa
Wendy Spacek
Nicole Stanford
Alisha Stark
Stephanie Starr
Anthony Szymanski
Leah Taylor
Eric Teliez
Robert Thomas
Cyril Thompson
Rodney Thompson
Alexander Tokarski
William Tosh
Michele Travis
Ryan Trunk
Samantha Truth
Leticia Vazquez
Adam Velez
Nicholas Walla
Thomas Ward
Mark Weber
Mitchel Wegerich
Shauna Wetmore
James Whelchel
Angelic Whitehead
Scott Willett
Norman Williams
Sarah Williams
Zackery Williams
Hillary Woloshansky
Patrick Wright
Philip Wright
Michael York
Olivia Zamarron
Matthew Zmierski
Thomas Zuranski

Seniors Last Day





JUNIORS

Christopher Abram
Kristen Adams
Samantha Alley
Nikita Allgire
Jordan Alliss
Katlin Alvey
Andrea Amstein
Danyelle Andrews



Victoria Arwood
Nicole Ayala
Brittany Ayers
Natalia Baccarelli
Brieanne Back
Jordan Bailey
Ross Bailey
Stephen Bain



Matthew Baker
Cassandra Balding
Holly Banic
Herbie Barker
Heather Barlow
Robert Barnes
Jessica Barrett
Arisella Boss



James Battreall
Meghan Bauer
Nathan Beal
Kylie Beaudreau
Brittney Beers
Amy Bell
Michael Benjamin
Britnee Berman



Who has affected your life the most in all of your schooling?

Ms. G. Kotyuk, she helped me improve in my writing and in my creativity; even though I didn't get a good grade in her class.

- Dan Meyer, 11

Ms. G. Kotyuk has definitely affected me more than anyone else. I've learned so much in her class and I'll never forget her.



Brooks Bermes
Melissa Bernal
Dino Bernardi
Trisha Berryman
Alysha Bingham
Erica Boggess
Anthony Bohling
Amanda Boldin

Sarah Bool
Tammi Bordelon
Dennis Borens
Aimee Bottorff
Catlyn Boucher
Tara Bowen
Thomas Boyer
Johnathan Brandon

Amanda Bridges
Betsy Brown
Steven Brown
Casey Bryan
Jeanne Brys
Kelsey Burr
Cassandra Cain
Sarah Cannon

Justine Carlotta
Ashley Carns
Marissa Carrillo
Shannon Carroll
Johnathan Carter
Sarah Castaneda
Corrine Castillo
Michelle Castrejon

Brittini Chambers
Kasey Chase
Tiffany Chase
Scott Cherry
Kelly Christman
Rachel Christman
Kari Gieszkiewicz
Nicole Clark

Robert Clark
Andrew Coban
Jessica Coffey
Franklin Cole
Sophia Coleman
Samantha Colon
Krista Conley
Jeremiah Cox

What are your favorite things to do?

My favorite things to do include:
skimboarding, playing basketball,
playing fisbee and just hanging out at
the beach. - Reese Mussman, 11

Shouting out loud, and taking the yolk
out of eggs and throwing them at
people.

Jeremy Cox
Kristen Cox
Sarah Craig
Robert Creech
Jessica Davidson
Tiffany Davies
Adam Davis
Lyndsey Deavers

Jennifer Delacruz
Cassandra Dessauer
Jessie Dexter
Jessica Dienes
Michael Disney
Kyle Doan
Anthony Donohue
Monique Duran

Amanda Earley
Nuarlele Echoles
Ryan Edwards
Kaitlin Ellis
Trent Ellis
Jason Epton
Steven Erwin
Chyanne Evans

Jacklyn Evans
Lorenzo Evans
Ryan Fagan
Ryan Fairchild
Lauren Falk
Andrew Farmer
Aaron Fedor
Bradley Feehan

Sarah Fink
Mark Fischer
Aaron Ford
William Fortenberry
Jeanette Frahm
Daniel Franz
Jerrrell Freney
Monetra Freney

Nicholas Friday
Andrea Fuentes
Alyssa Fultz
Megan Gannon
David Garcia
Michael Garibay
Kenneth Garneau
Megan Garner



IS THE DRESS CODE AT PORTAGE HIGH SCHOOL FAIR?

66% - NO 34% - YES



Steven Gazibara
Barry Geber
Samantha George
Michelle Gibson
Amy Gifford
Brendan Gill
Edward Giordano
Steven Goheen

Brittany Gonzales
Brett Gorden
Christen Gottschlich
Stephanie Greer
Melanie Griffin
Samantha Griffith
Blanca Guajardo
Jonathan Guerrero

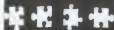
Meagan Gutierrez
Brandon Hack
John Hagle
Adam Hale
Kathleen Hargarten
Julia Hastings
Devaron Hawkins
Arpad Hayes

Taylor Helmick
Felicia Hendricks
Anna Henry
Justin Hertl
Kyle Hess
Elizabeth Hill
Tiffany Hines
Travis Hoak

Inherit the Wind
rehearsal as Giovanni
Serrano and Zac
Wilfond act out a scene
in the courtroom.



Powderpuff
juniors
celebrate
after winning
their grueling
game against
the seniors.



Eager team
member, Andy
Farmer sits
watching the
game as the
Portage
Indians charge
to victory.



Tiffany Hoang
Kateland Hohnacki
Lauren Hokenson
Bradley Homan
Mary Iliff
Lindsy Imel
Dusti Imeson
Kevin Isaac



Megan Jacobs
Eric Jagiela
Cassandra Janis
Brittany Jenks
Megan Jercha
Adam Johnson
Kristine Jones
Megan Jordan



Steven Juszcak
Andrew Kaurich
Elizabeth Kelly
Samantha Kenealy
Sean Kennedy
Elise Killmer
Amanda Klinger
Brittney Koebecke



Heather Koller
Austin Konchar
Lauren Konyk
Kacey Kornacki
Samantha Kostelnik
Derek Kozik
Dustin Krenkel
Amanda Kirga



What is the best part about being a junior?

You know almost everybody.

- Stephan Bain, 11

You realize you have only one year left.

- Matt Corbett, 11



Samantha Labno
Samantha Lachowicz
Luke Ladra
Hilary Lajon
Rosalie Lakes
Lindsay Lambert
Kyle Lamping
Valerie Lane

Amanda Lee
Stacy Levack
Jessica Lewis
Sarah Lewis
Hannah Lindstrom
Casey Lipe
David Longfield
Erika Lopez

Jonathan Lopez
Barshea Lowery
Nicole Luedtke
Amanda Luna
Joshua Maddack
Johnathan Mahaffey
Kayla Maldonado
Dawn Mardis

Robert Markos
Cecelia Martinez
Jaime Martinez
Raphael Martinez
Maria Mausser
Joe Mayfield
Krystin McClellan
Timothy McGuire

Alicia McMurray
Kelly McNear
Michael McNiskin
Alicia Meade
Ryan Miller
Joseph Miller
Christina Mischanko
Sara Mischke

Zachary Montez
Enrique Moran
Megan Moran
Brittany Morrison
Christopher Alan Moss
Max Mulvihill
Kassandra Mulzon
Reece Mussman

Should Students Have to Buy a Parking Pass to Drive to School?

Ball taken
by 26
JUNIOR
STUDENTS



Matthew Nadolski
Christina Nasiatka
Derrek Nelson
Christopher Nevil
Kenny Nolan
Michael Oprisko
Rachel Paczolt
Melissa Padlo



Joseph Park
Breanna Patillo
Avery Pearman
Ray Peek
Tommy Peeler
Catherine Pennington
Daniel Perez
Kielly Perkins

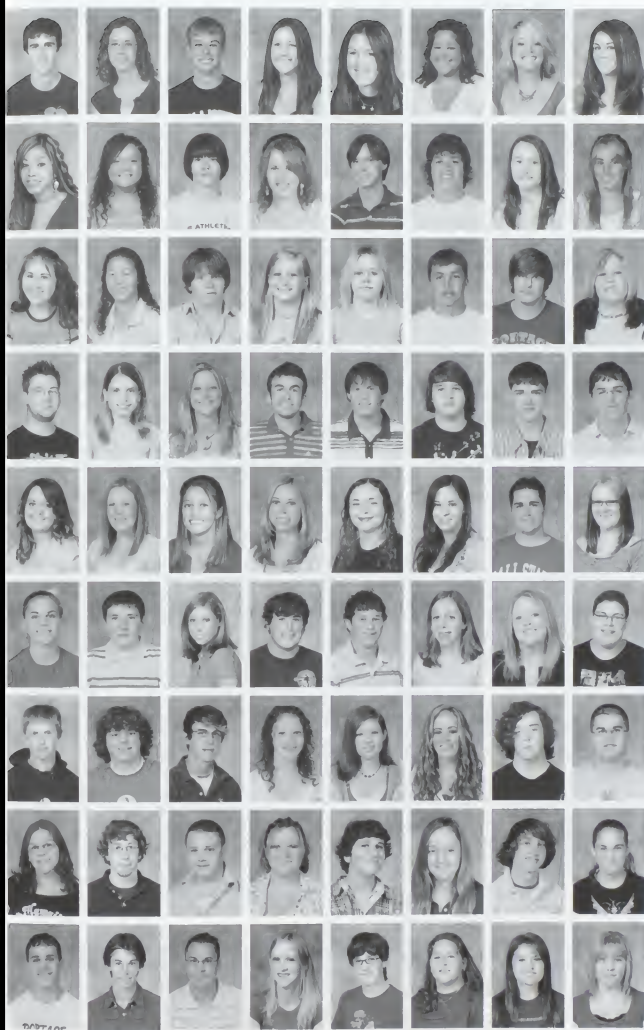


Carolyn Peters
Justin Pezel
Brandon Phillips
Stephanie Phipps
Jurgen Phipps
Holly Piers
Aubrie Piro
Lauren Pirovski



Ashley Privett
Bryan Radakovich
Eric Ramian
Kevin Ramian
Pedro Ramos
Nicholas Rasco
Vincent Razo
Jaimee Reed





Brian Reynolds
Danielle Richardson
Larry Riffett
Julia Rios
Tony Rios
Alicia Rivera
Emily Robbins
Jessica Rocha

Justine Rodriguez
Jasmine Rodriguez
Tyler Rosenbaum
Jessica Rosendaul
Jeremy Rossi
Keith Roy
Melissa Russell
Andrea Ryan

Catherine Rybecki
Krystle Sanchez
Richard Sandage
Amber Sanders
Sarah Sanders
Bradly Sansone
Walter Sarnowski
Sabrina Scegiel

Kevin Schick
Kate Schreiber
Amanda Sedoris
Anthony Seigh
Benjamin Shadley
Kevin Shelton
Brian Shreve
David Sickles

Jessica Sievers
Amber Sims
Theresa Singh
Jessica Siple
Jessica Skalka
Victoria Skubish
Kyle Slusher
Hannah Smith

Leighan Smith
Michael Sobierajski
Ashley Sosa
Eric Speer
Tyler Spoolstra
Katelyn Stanfield
Kristin Stanley
Jason Stearns

Nathaniel Stearns
William Andrew Stearns
Michael Stevens
Audrey Stone
Diamond Stringer
Kristen Sullins
Thomas Sullivan
Daniel Talbot

Amy Tamietto
Derek Terpstra
Cody Thiel
Vickie Thompson
Ricky Thompson
Sheila Thompson
Christopher Thorn
Tabitha Thornbury

Justin Tibbs
Sean Toomey
Peter Trinidad
Jessica Tupper
Enk Twilla
Kayla Tylka
Natalie Vahary
Kelsi Van Wormer

During tryouts for the
2006 Variety Show,
Junior Kristine Jones
dances for her routine.

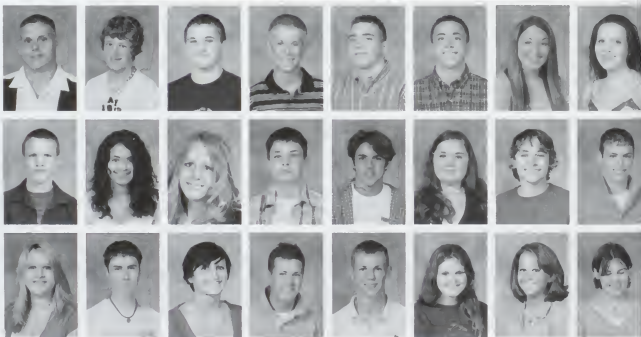
At Inherit the Wind rehearsal,
Alicia Bingham, Melanie Griffin,
and Kayla Maldonado play their
parts as jurors.



Charles Vanover
Lawrence Vaughan
Andrew Veatch
David Vivian
Kyle Vottero
Ryan Vottero
Felicia Vucko
Theresa Vulpitta

Dexter Watkins
Leonora Whiting
Ashleigh Whitten
Brittany Wiederhold
Zachary Willfond
Nichole Williams
Owen Williams
Cortie Wilson

Karissa Wilson
Nathaniel Wise
Ashley Wood
Mack Wozniak
Aaron Wright
Lauren Wright
Rachel Wyatt
Katrina Yeo



Before the Portage vs. Crown Point homecoming game, students unwind at the annual parade.



Proud Juniors
celebrate after
a hard game
against the
seniors during
the 4th annual
Powderpuff
football game.



Mark Yeo
Amanda York
Joshua Young
Laura Zack
Jacob Zuidervliet

SOPHOMORES!!!

CLASS

OF

2008

Valerie Abeyta
Leah Adams
Rita Ahlborn
Kimberly Almone
Thomas Albee
Michael Allen
Christopher Amore
Peter Andersen



Darrell Anderson
Jennifer Arend
Rhonda Ashford
Patricia Bailey
Zachary Barker
Brittney Barnett
Ivan Bateman
Courtney Beach



Bracy Bean
Mara Bearss
Carol Belleville
Jasmine Belmont
Robert Bennett
Carrie Biggs
Kyle Blair
Amy Blakely



Samuel Bloom
Anthony Bluiett
Amber Bolin
Richelle Bolinger
Erica Bonilla
Stephanie Bowman
Devin Boylan
Megan Braden





CLASSof08:> How do you feel about the connection between the two buildings?

I think it is good because people won't have to walk outside in the cold and rain.

Wendy Windsor



I think it is great. It definitely needed to be done for a long while.

Anna DeFlorio



Tae Braner
Deanna Brantley
Emily Brenan
Elizabeth Brown
Michael Brutout
Lindsay Burbee
Steve Burton
Tonya Butala

Brittany Buzea
Kaitlyn Cabanos
Brandi Cain
Austin Caldwell
Angelica Camacho
Jennifer Campbell
Carolina Carattini
Nicholas Cardenas

Graham Cardwell
Andreanna Carnell
John Carpenter
Jessica Carson
Erika Cervantes
Nolen Chavez
Jessalyn Child
Steffane Christian

Autumn Clarda
Stephen Clark
Kristin Clem
Logan Cloyd
Anthony Coccoaro
Douglas Coffman
Amanda Cole
Grace Coleman

Kevin Compass
Darren Conley
Brianna Coppinger
Jessica Cox
Rachel Crase
Chad Crile
Kathryn Crook
Kyle Crout

Beth Croy
Jacob Crozier
Kathleen Curiel
Morgan Currin
Amy Czupryn
Angela Dees
Zachary Dees
Kristina Deleon

Daniel Delgado
Amy Delturco
Brittany Demmond
Paige Devore
Timothy Diamond
Joseph Diccio
William Doll
Nicholas Dove



Meghan Doyle
Mary Dreckman
Logan Drees
Kayla Drozd
Robert Drury
Jeffrey Dubach
Anthony Duron
Jennifer Dusard



Jessica Echtering
Khristopher Edmaiston
Joseph Efantis
Adair Engel
Jakob Engel
Madison Engel
Megan Erway
Carrington Evans



Kenneth Evans
Kyle Evans
Stephanie Evans
Brittany Evola
Stephanie Farmer
Samuel Fazekas
Elizabeth Felciano
Brittany Felker



Tristan Ferguson
Todd Ferris
Bruce Fink
John Fischer
Taylor Fleming
Jennifer Fletcher
Jeremy Flick
Joshua Flick



With total concentration to remain leaning forward, Megan Rawdon jumps into the sand pit. Long jumpers do not want to fall backwards in the sand pit because it lessens the athletes overall distance and score.





CLASSof08:> What is your position on the rules of not wearing holes in jeans?

I think that as long as the holes are not too big and if the are below the knees that it shouldn't be a big deal.

Spencer Rosenberger



It surely is not a hard rule to follow

Melinda Jarnecke

Send



Michelle Floyd
Andrew Foster
Whitney Foster
Rachell Franklin
Tina Franklin
Dustin Franz
Amie Fuller
Leslie Fuller

Corey Gaines
Nathan Garcia
Breanna Garza
Melissa Garza
Anthony Geary
Stephanie Gerbick
Jonathan Geske
Amanda Gettig

Elizabeth Girouard
Benjamin Gobin
Matthew Golarz
Andrew Golden
Eric Gossett
Tyler Grashel
Adam Greer
Matthew Guglielmetti

Melissa Hale
Taylor Halko
Ashlee Hall
Mariah Hamang
Sarah Hamang
Joseph Hammond
Samuel Hardison
Russell Harrington

James Harris
Kaylyn Hart
Jessica Hayward
Michael Hazy
Rachel Heckman
Lindsay Hejna
Joseph Hemry
Jeffery Hensley

Christine Hernandez
Amber Herrera
Jillian Herman
Maria Hicks
John Hill
Jessika Hoadrea
Samantha Hoak
Lauren Hodges

Sophomores - <<Class of 08>>

Blowing by his defender, Matt Walters goes up for a lay-up in gym class. Walters, as a sophomore, was a starter for the junior varsity team and even saw a few quarters of court time for the varsity squad this year.



Meredith Hodges
Lauren Hopper
Treona Hunter
Jennifer Hyde
Nathan Ingram
Leah Jackson
Christina Jacobs
Stephanie Jahoda



Ashleigh Janiga
Marko Jasnic
Brittany Johnson
Natalie Johnson
Vance Johnston
David Jolly
Tate Judy
Jennifer Kalch



Nicholas Kaminski
Kaitlin Karagory
Jaimie Kasper
Matthew Kawiecki
Courtney Kearby
Brandon Kestle
Katina Kidd
Erin Kleist



Craig Knickerbocker
Kristen Knuth
Kiyoshi Kobayashi
Rebecca Kobe
Lauren Komenda
Clint Konchar
Jayne Korpak
Kara Kostelnik





James Kovacs
Aaron Krabbenhoft
Nicole Krooswyk
Kevin Krueger
Jeffrey Krug
Timothy Laskovich
Brian Laster
Olivia Leggett

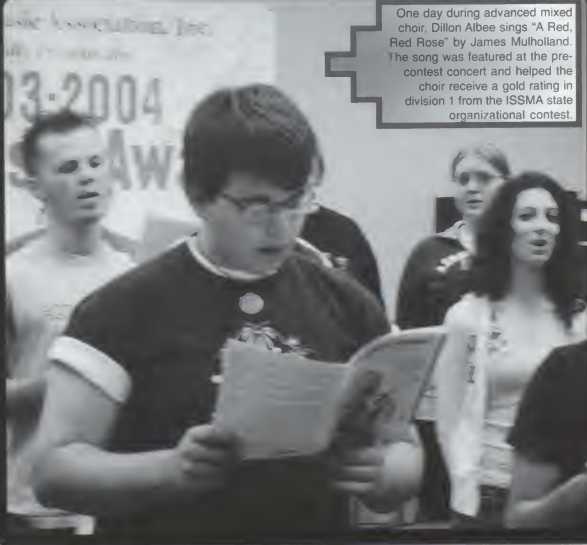
Amanda Leimbach
Daniel Lenzo
Carmyn Leveritt
Will Lewis
Abigail Llerena
Peter Lofland
Joseph Lonergan
Brittany Lozanovski

Thomas Lynch
Ashley Madsen
Kamran Malik
Samantha Maples
Sarah Marek
Stevan Marjanov
Joel Martinez
Stacey Martinez

Dallas Masch
Thomas Mathis
Alyssa Mayerik
Kathryn McCready
Derek McDermott
Steven McLeod
Amanda Mccysine
Sara Mendez

Sophomores - <<Class of 08>>

One day during advanced mixed choir, Dillon Albee sings "A Red, Red Rose" by James Mulholland. The song was featured at the pre-contest concert and helped the choir receive a gold rating in division 1 from the ISSMA state organizational contest.





CLASSof08:> What have you been caught doing?

That depends on who's reading this.

Joe Lonegran



I got caught having a non-supervised party.

Melissa Gara



I once lied about a car accident because I was scared

Katie O'Brien



Send

Valerie Mihal
Diamond Miller
Angela Mills
Elijah Mills
Amanda Mirabella
Melinda Misch
Samantha Mischanko
Michael Morales



Colleen Moran
Emily Morris
Ryan Morris
Amy Muhammad
Michael Murray
Korissa Neace
Krista Nebel
Katie Nestorovich



Cassandra Newlin
Benjamin Newton
Tiffany Nichols
Kari Nugent
Katherine O'Brien
Michelle O'Dor
Andrew O'Reilly
Joelle Oakes



Robbie Onofrey
Alexander Oprisko
Sara Ortiz
Lindsay Owens
Nathaniel Pall
Philip Paulson
William Pearman
Andrew Peksenak



Matthew Peksenak
Arielle Pennington
Holly Percifield
Zachary Perry
Clinton Peters
Amanda Peterson
Alexis Petrak
Andrew Piasecki





Pierre Pirtle
Christina Posey
Carly Posiadlik
Lauren Powers
Joshua Pradziad
Andrew Price
Rachael Price
Danielle Prusynski

Samantha Radakovich
Elizabeth Ramirez
James Rasch
Megan Rawdon
Kyle Redlark
Ashley Reeves
Vanessa Reyes
Jakob Ribar

Ryan Richmond
Kurtis Robinson
Cecilia Rodriguez
Selestina Rodriguez
Ryan Ropp
Tera Ross
Sarah Rosser
Afton Ryals

Arthur Safstrom
Ashley Sakes
Samantha Salmi
Lisa Samplawski
Jacob Sandage
Ashley Sanders
Charles Sanders
Katie Sasser

Amanda Satanek
Natasha Saylor
Craig Scharf
David Scheeringa
Eric Schuler
Lauren Scott
Jessica Sedoris
Tasha Sever

PHS Sophomore Messenger



CLASSof08:> How have your classes connected with you outside of school?

Journalism has helped me stay up in the news. When my family is talking about something on the news, I know what they are talking about.

Lauren Powers



Chad Crile

What kind of question is that?

I've made a lot of new friends in my classes

Katie Karagory



Send

Lindsay Shay
Joseph Sischo
Rachel Sklarz
Nikolas Skubish
Brent Slawnikowski
Ashley Sliger
James Smith
Stephen Smolinski



Hannah Snyder
Ryan Specht
Cody Spencer
Brian Stasik
Jami Steighner
Stacey Stilley
Julie Stills
Tara Stockstill



Zachary Stoehr
Michele Stowers
Erin Strang
Amanda Sulski
Ronald Sutton
Richard Swain
Nicole Sykora
Michael Tanses



Brittany Tapper
Nathaniel Taylor
Allyssa Terkowitz
Ashley Testa
Kayla Thomas
Katie Thomason
Timothy Thompson
Anita Thornton



Brian Thornton
Melody Tilford
Amber Tolgo
Emily Tolliver
Thomas Torres
John Trathen
Corey Tulacz
Brandi Turner



Sophomores - <<Class of 08>>



A good strategy for cross country runners is to stay together to provide support and motivation. Melinda Misch and Taylor Halko briskly run down the trail at Woodland Park during the Duneland Athletic Conference cross country meet.

CLASSof08:> What is your biggest pet peeve?

Stupid people and the students who make out in front of the stairway.

C.J. Peters

Everyone in this school!!

Danielle Prusynile

People being racist is a pretty big pet peeve of mine.

Jacob Galindo

Send



Katlyn Udchitz
Jody Uran
Aaron Van Wormer
Nicholas Vander Wal
Nicholas Vanni
Julian Vazquez
Krystal Vivian
Kevin Waite

Rachelle Walker
Randy Walker
Matthew Walters
Joshua Weidon
Alexandra Whelan
Ashton Whitley
Cynthia Wilhelm
Eric Wilk

Christopher Wilkening
Vera Clarissa Wilkins
Jacob Williams
Sydney Williams
Felicia Williamson
Justin Willis
James Wilt
Wendy Windsor

Corey Winowitch
Zachary Wood
Kortney Woodard
Benjamin Wright
Fawn Wright
Joseph Wright
Jessica Yauch
Rachel Ybarra

Jennifer York
Natasha Younger
Kevin Zbikowski
Natalie Ziulkowski
Adrian Zuniga

Exit '09



West Freshmen Exit



Ryan Almutis
Lisa Allsbury
Wendy Alvarez
Darryl Andersen
Jessica Anderson
Loretta Anekwe
Kaitlynn Antle



Danielle Aragon
Erica Armstrong
Andrea Arndt
Brittnee Arndt
Trever Arnn
Dwayne Arnold
Joseph Arroyo
Leslie Bailey



Daniel Bain
Lauren Barner
Jeffrey Barnes
Rashell Barnes
Lindsey Bartholomew
Nicholas Bartuch
Megan Beach
Timothy Beal



Michael Beckham
Kevin Benak
Jessica Berndt
David Berridge
Krystle Bierman
Corey Bingham
Kayla Bishop
Ashley Bjork





Alicia Blascovich
Amber Blejski
Desiree Borg
Carly Boteler
Jessica Bowles
Johnathan Boyer
Elizabeth Broadie
Korey Brooks

Phillip Brosseau
Anthony Brown
Sarah Brown
Jessica Bruno
Robert Brys
Jonathan Buchanan
Jason Buchwalter
Jonathan Bumbales

Christopher Burke
Addisen Cameron
Nicholas Caniglia
Karla Cardenas
Lisa Carroll
Latisha Casey
Raymond Casillas
Adam Castaneda

David Castaneda
Rikki Cavanaugh
Patricia Cervantes
Brookeann Chandler
Ryan Cherry
Tyler Choucalas
Aaron Ciesielski
Marissa Clough

Brittany Coates
Megan Coffey
Nathaniel Coleman
Amanda Collazo
Maurizia Colunga
Brandon Comerford
Leslie Cook
Stephanie Cooper

Brianna Cordon
Charles Cousins
Amber Cox
Dustin Crayne
Kayla Criswell
Christopher Croft
Allison Cruse
Grant Cummings

Melanie Cunningham
Sean Curbow
Shannon Curry
Amanda Daggett
Brittania Dahlgren
Bryce Dakin
Jennifer Darnell
Jared Davies

Should there be metal detectors at Portage High School?

I believe that there should not be metal detectors because to do that school would be a prison not a place to learn.

Freshman - Amy Rodriguez

Ariangela Davis
 John Davis
 Austin Dean
 Salena Dean
 Tyler Dean
 Zachary Dean
 Arturo Del Real
 Tiffany Dessauer



Elena Dimitrovska
 Dakota Dixon
 Joshua Djurich
 Jordan Doherty
 Valerie Dominguez
 Erica Donohue
 Derek Dougherty
 Aleda Douglas



Jessica Dranchak
 Stephanie Dreesen
 Nicholas Dvorscak
 Stephen Eastridge
 Kevin Engel
 Alan Eryman
 Amanda Evett
 Rachel Fairchild



Andrea Falk
 Casey Ferguson
 Brittney Figueroa
 Steven Finger
 Kayla Ford
 Nathan Fortenberry
 Salena Freeman
 Derek Frizzell



Alyssa Froman
 Bryce Fromme
 Kevin Funke
 Danielle Gaines
 Danielle Gaines
 Alyssa Gamez
 Allyse Gardner
 Anthony Geiselman



Joshua Gensel
 Kirsten Gerber
 James Geros
 Damian Givens
 Amanda Goetz
 Virgil Goin
 Michelle Gonzales
 Christian Good



Gail Goodan
 Tyler Gordon
 Desiree Gordon
 Michelle Gottschlich
 Morgyn Graber
 Cesar Granillo
 Jeffrey Gratt
 Diandre Green



Megan Gregory
 Brandon Gross
 Jamie Grutsch
 Chad Habhab
 Austyne Hakes
 Matthew Halfman
 Nicole Hall
 Ashlie Handley



Taylor Haraminac
 Brittany Harriman
 Daniel Harris
 Rachel Harris
 Nicole Harrie
 Jacob Hart
 Joshua Hart
 Jenna Harvey



Do You Have A MySpace Addiction???

When you think of the word addiction, what first pops into your mind? Some say drugs, others alcohol, but what's becoming more and more common among teens isn't a substance at all. It's a website. Harmless enough, right? Wrong. First let's look at the positives.

MySpace.com has over 70 million users as of April 2006, most of which consist of high school students. You can do so many things on MySpace. "My favorite things to do on MySpace are edit my page and change my music," says TJ Olsen. "My favorite things to do are make pretty pictures, comment, and take cool pictures!" states Morgyn Gaber. I like to meet new people, check my mail, and look up my friend's MySpaces. Anthony Geiselman likes to argue with people in groups and Brittania Dahlgren likes to

message people and receive comments and Ruhen Mudez likes to make blogs. "My favorite thing to do on MySpace is to get sneak peeks from my favorite bands," said Brittney Figueroa.

Music is a huge part of MySpace. Different bands and artists have their own pages whether they are local or well known. You can listen to their songs if they decide to put them on their "page." Charles Sanders of the band Mortuus explains, "It gets music to other people that wouldn't be able to hear us."

MySpace isn't just a place for friends you see everyday. A few students have used it in a different way. "I meet people I don't know at my own school," says Taylor Hill. Others have said, "I found long lost family members and friends." "I find

people I haven't seen or talked to in years," and Luis Martin says "I like it because it keeps me in touch with my old friends from Chicago."

Even though there are so many people that love MySpace, there are some negative consequences. A negative effect of MySpace is the way people act and react when they use it. One student said, "People go over the top using MySpace is to make friends, you don't know, keep in touch with the ones you have or the whole dating thing. But teens these days become perverts and take it too far." Many arguments get started on the websites because of comments like this, "My favorite thing to do on MySpace is making fun of emo kids pictures." Then again some don't like it at all.

When passing out surveys some students were very opinionated about this site, not in a good way either. When asked "Why do you like MySpace?" Evan Burgos wrote, "I don't so back off. I don't have an account and never will. It's a waste of time and just an excuse to think you are accepted in life." Others say they don't like MySpace but contradicted themselves. "MySpace is a way for attention begging kids to feel more popular because they can't talk to people face to face," write Ryan Ring, but yet he states having a MySpace with 160 friends and says he uses the website daily. Surprisingly, many people who

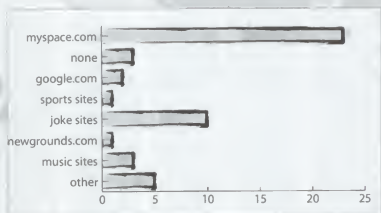
claimed to hate MySpace say they visit the site daily. That's where the addiction sets in.

MySpace doesn't have to be addicting at all yet so many are trapped in the cyber world. In a survey, one out of every three students surveyed said they were addicted to the "MySpace Phenomenon." A former "MySpace addict" said, "It was a horrible addiction. It takes over your life." They have since deleted their account.

When asked if they sometimes forget or blow off other things like homework or chores, because they don't want to sign off, many responses were "yes" and some even said, "I do it all the time!"

But it doesn't have to be that way, some have said they can do homework and stay on MySpace at the same time. Others say they don't blow off homework because they will regret it later. Many simply said no, they don't but some smart teens know how to get their priorities straight. "I do my homework before I get on MySpace." Is MySpace a good or bad thing? It's all up to you. Just remember: it's just a website. Go outside and hang out with your friends once in a while! The real thing is better than "cyberspace."

Lindsay Lambert



Katherine Hawkins
Sara Hayden
Austin Haynes
Da'Shaenna Hearst
Ryan Heck
Tricia Hein
Thomas Hennrich
Gabrielle Henry

James Henson
Nadine Hernandez
Anthony Herrera
Justine Herrera
Christopher Hess
Joseph Higgins
Richard Hill
Taylor Hill

Hailey Holland
Kristina Hominger
Michael Hook
Kelsey Horton
Natalie House
Lisa Howerton
Nicole Hudson
Jillian Hufgard

Andrew Hulise
Megan Hulise
Donlyn Ivey
Justin Jacobs
Devon Jager
Meagan Jakubowicz
Brooke Janik
Suzie Jennings

Rachel Jett
Jasmine Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Whitney Johnson
Heidi Jones
Samantha Jones
Courtney Jozwick
Megan Juchinski



Nicholas Kaminski
Robert Kane
Tiffany Keil
Crystal Keilman
Kyle Keith
Francis Killmer
Brian Kim
Alexandria Kimmel



Tasha Kindred
Christopher Kirk
Caleb Kitchen
Jonathan Kleist
James Klimczyk
Kaylan Knutsen
Steve Kovachevich
Stephen Koveck



Kristina Kress
Valerie Lafata
Andrew Leal
Morgan Leucuta
Aaron Lewis
Raychel Lewis
Terry Lewis
Claire Lichnerowicz



Colton Littrell
Nathan Livingston
Alexander Long
James Lopez
Nathan Lowery
Kelley MacKoyak
Jacob Maddack
Ambrosia Maddox



Jesse Magana
Ashley Majewski
Luis Marin
Miriah Mark
Jonathan Martinez
Rolando Martinez
Brandon Massom
Charles Matheny



Sarah Mathewson
Brittany Mathis
Kaitlynn McCarty
Randy McCreedy
Ann-Marie McGee
Kylie McGuire
Caleb McKee
Alexander McWaters

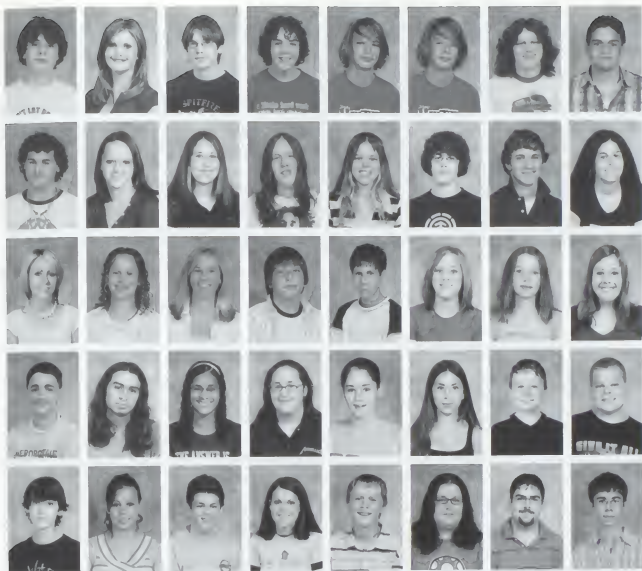


Dustin Meinecke
Jeffrey Melton
Magdalene Melton
Ruben Mendez
Zachary Messina
Austin Miller
Stefan Miller
Shelby Milner



Max Mischke
Brett Misner
Tiffany Montes
Ashley Morris
Charles Murch
Shawn Murphy
Verba Murphy
Clark Mussman





Jacob Myers
Nadia Nabhan
Ethan Nadolski
Jonathon Neyhart
Zachary Nickoles
Zachary Nickoles
Steven Nolan
Jose Nunez

Keith O'Quinn
Amy O'Saben
Stephanie Oetman
Jason Ogle
Bethanie Olsen
Thomas Olson
Austin Orlich
Belinda Ortiz

Elizabeth Oswald
Alyssa Pacheco
Amanda Pacheco
Joseph Paczolt
Joseph Pagan
Hannah Pajor
Tiffany Palagyi
Ann Parobek

Richard Parron III
Martin Pelayo
Jessenia Perez
Lisa Perez
Megan Perez
Miranda Perez
John Perry
Donald Petroski

Cory Pfeiffer
Nicole Phillips
Vincent Phillips
Laura Pieczynski
Jordan Pierce
Jami Piers
Aaron Poe
Kyle Poracky

Who is your favorite teacher?

Mrs. Peda is my favorite teacher because she is a fun teacher and lets everyone participate and helps everyone who needs help.
-Stephanie Timmons-



Mr. Dean, because he is laid back, cool, funny, and he teaches in ways that are understandable. There is never a dull moment if you do your work.
-Austin Dean-



I don't like very many teachers but my favorite teacher is Mrs. Bokur because she's kickin' it.
-Greg Russell-



My favorite kind of student is the student that I can share information with the student who asks a question when they don't understand the student who makes you as a person, not always as a teacher, the student. These are my favorite students.
-Mrs. Peda-



My favorite type of student would have to be one who is an original thinker, has a sense of humor, can support his/her opinions, and can identify and respond to a good dose of sarcasm. Good personal hygiene doesn't hurt either.
-Mr. Dean-



My favorite type of student comes to school with a smile on their face. They listen well and are helpful. Lastly, my favorite students always say "Yes" to the hallway.
-Mrs. Bokur-

Where is your favorite place to hang out in Portage?



"The bowling alley because I love to bowl."



"The movies. I love going to the movies with friends. It's something I always do."



"Walmart because I like to shop."

Matthew Porter
Derek Poznanski
Stephanos Prassas
Desirea Pride
Desirea Pride
Charles Prigge
David Privett
Katherine Prohl

Matthew Propeck
Zachary Przybysz
Cody Pulido
Tonya Purcell
Breshunda Quinn
Carson Rains
Ashley Randle El
Amanda Rapo

Angela Ratigan
Joshua Rayner
Megan Rebeck
Dominic Reboy
Patrick Reece
Kyle Reyna
Thomas Richards
Darcy Richardson

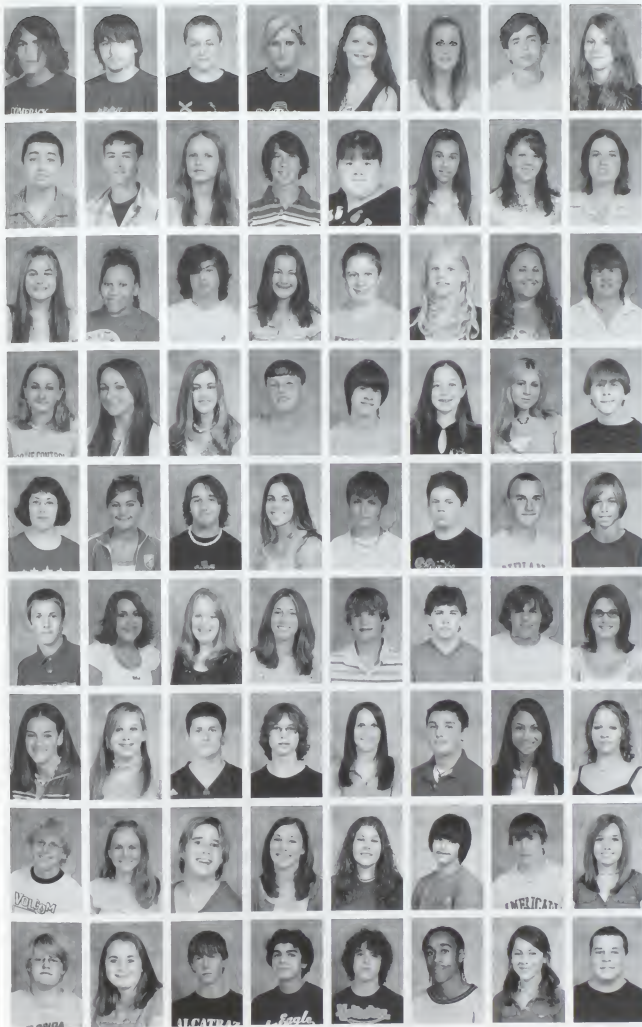
William D. Rigdon
Ryan Ring
Kristine Rio
Christopher Rivera
Corey Rivera
Eric Rivera
Victoria Rivera
Katherine Rivich

Heather Robinson
Jennifer Rocha
Alexandra Rodriguez
Amy Rodriguez
David Rodriguez
Juan Rodriguez
Julianna Rodriguez
Samantha Rodriguez

Jamie Rogers
Brett Ronk
James Ross
Cody Rossi
Justin Ruiz
Gregory Russell
Jennifer Sable
Darya Sadchikova

David Samaniego II
Nathan Samano
Thaddius Sampson
Jonathan Sanchez
Kaitlin Sanchez
Marc Sanchez
Johnathon Sandrey
Cynthia Santiago





Christopher Santos
Curtis Schwalm
Jimmy Scott
Crystal Seibal
Amalia Shanks-Meile
Autumn Shears
Michael Sheehan
Kira Sheeman

Randy Shell
Josiah Sherrow
Ashley Sholar
Michael Sikora
Allee Siler
Gina Silva
Alejandra Simmons
Emily Smith

Janee Smith
Ranacha Smith
Tyler Smith
Jessica Sobocinski
Stephanie Sowers
Heather Spence
Jessica Spicker
Alex Srednoselac

Ashlee Stanley
Brittany Stanley
Kelly Stanley
Brandon Starr
Richard Statler III
Katie Steele
Alyssa Stevens
Dane Stewart

Jamie Stone
Samantha Stover
Samuel Stoye
Dana Stronczek
Dustin Sturgill
Terrence Sullivan
Jeffrey Suthers
Brandon Sutkowski

Shaun Swain
Maggie Switzer
Megan Szabo
Carolyn Tackett
Tyler Tampier
Johnny Taylor, Jr.
Brandon Terpstra
Kristin Tharp

Ashley Thompson
Brianna Thompson
Michael Thornbury
Eric Thurman
Katelyn Tiernan
Ryan Timmons
Stephanie Timmons
Cristina Todd

Kyle Trzeciak
Sarah Tucker
Nikki Turner
Amanda Twilla
Samantha Tylka
Nicholas Untch
Michael Vacanti
Kadie Van Wormer

Maxwell Van Wormer
Kiaya Vanbuskirk
Bradley Vanvleet
Leonel Vasquez
Nicholas Vaughan
Erik Vaughn
Alicia Vega
Matthew Venhuizen

What
happened
when you
realized
how long
the classes
actually
were?

I think we
all just
started
getting bored
even faster.
It felt like
you were
just really
tired. It was
a drag.
-Josh
Djurich-



It's not
really that
bad. You get
used to it. I
actually like
it. The day
goes by
quickly for
me.
-Megan
Hulse-



Jasmine Villegas
Ralph Voll
Joshua Walker
John Wall
Jessica Walton
Aubrey Warwick
Dustin Watkins
Kenneth Watt



Andrea Wattles
Tonya Webb
Shane Weber
Bradley Welbourne III
Jessica West
Robin Wheeler
Larry Whiting III
Lauren Wighamam



Jacob Wilkinson
Alison Williams
Charnise Williams
Gavin Williams
Heather Williamson
Cynthia Willis
Ashley Wilson
Britney Wilson



Kaitlin Winowitch
Kyle Witten
Skyeler Wood
Ronnie Woodard, Jr.
Dennis Wright
Jessica Wright
Kayla Wright
Robert Wright



With the classes you have taken this year, do you
see any of the skills you've learned apply to your
life?

Yes, I do, all of my
academics help
me with skills for
my life and for a
career and
college.



-Brad
Welbourne-

-Miriah
Mark-



Yes, I see that the
leadership and the
people skills will help
me in jobs.



Shawn Wright
Amanda Yonushatis
Joan Young
Tisha Zachery
Donald Zarych
Krystyna Zatorski
Valerie Zielinski
Elizabeth Ziulkowski

MacKenzie Zorick
Nathan Zuranski
Jackson Zyla

Standardized tests, good or bad?

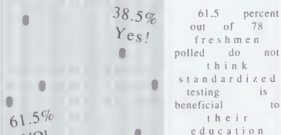
Beaudreau- What do you think of when you hear the words "Standardized Test", or "Istep"? Do you think of long hours of testing? Do you think of boredom beyond belief? Do you think of something that is unbelievably pointless? 61.5% of Freshman students do.

But are standardized tests really that bad? 38.5% of Freshmen don't think so. The tests are set up and given to see how much students are actually learning and comprehending.

The only test that currently determines anything is the Istep test that is taken in the fall. The Freshman Istep test is really only a pretest for the Sophomore Istep which decides if you can graduate or not. In the fall of the Sophomore year the students in 10th grade take the Istep test with fellow 10th graders. The test results usually come back the week before winter break. If you pass the test you get to sleep in the next two years while all the other students take the Istep. If you don't pass then you have a total of four more chances to pass before you can graduate.

A new idea that the school is trying is to give out waivers to a senior that shows that they are trying to do better on the Istep test. A waiver can be issued to a

Do you agree with standardized testing?



senior who takes part in a remedial class after school. The class meets for about two weeks until about four o'clock Monday through Friday.



I heard that we are having another test that is all on the computer.
-Christina Todd-

The Core 40 test is all on the computer. The timer starts when you answer the first question. There is a math and an English portion to this test. The Core 40 test may become a requirement to receive a Core 40 or Academic Honors diploma within the next few years. It is taken by the junior class but at this point in time does not determine anything.



"I've heard that you have to take a test at the end of freshman year to get into 10th grade."

-Elena Dimitriovska-

No, there is not a test to take to get into 10th grade. The only test you will take as a freshman is the Istep.

Five Tips on How to Pass The Istep Test

1. Pay attention in Geometry and in Algebra.
2. Don't try to cram your brain full of information the night before. Just use what you know to answer the questions on the test.
3. Remember that Vocab in English is not pointless.
4. Eat something in the morning before you go to school to take the Istep. It will help you concentrate.
5. Get a good night's rest the night before. Try to get a sleeping pattern that week so you are used to the amount of sleep you are getting. Go to sleep at the same time and get up at the same time.

Date	Flight #	Departure	Time	Destination	Time
	AL169	New York	8:00	P.H.S.	2:35
	UNB76	Chicago	7:15	P.H.S.	12:12
	AA89	Los Angeles	1:04	P.H.S.	10:49
	PA286	Toledo	2:35	P.H.S.	9:56
	5042	Kalamazoo	12:12	P.H.S.	8:00
	AC628	Valparaiso	7:15	P.H.S.	7:15
	TH817	Fort Wayne	1:04	P.H.S.	1:04
	MGR19	Hindon	8:00	P.H.S.	2:35
	7504	Indianapolis	7:15	P.H.S.	2:35
	7524	Mexico City	1:04	P.H.S.	12:12
	AL427	South Bend	2:35	P.H.S.	12:12
	U219	Las Vegas	12:12	P.H.S.	10:49
	KPS18	Denver	10:49	P.H.S.	9:56
	JG116	Iowa City	9:56	P.H.S.	
		Kansas City		P.H.S.	

Faculty and Staff

Heidi Babcock
Amy Bertalan
Justin Biggs
Barbara Blake
William Bodnar
Shirley Bostos
Amanda Carlson
Carrie Carlson



Josh Cavan
Lois Chalmers-MacMillan
Amanda Childers-Martin
Cheryl Clapp
Scott Connor
Barbara Cook
Sandy Corno
Kevin Cumerelli



Lynette Dean
Rhonda Deane
James Downes
Jay Drew
Maryann Eckhart
Vicky Evans
Eric Floyd
Andrea Flynn



Darla Foreman
Becky Fry
Debbie Gannon
Vanessa George
Julie Goetz
Rolando Gonzalez
Melanie Gorden
John Hall





Ronald Hancock
Mark Harsha
Chase Hayes
Sandra Herr
Linda Hicks
Katherine Hites
Jay Hogdes
Tami Hudson

Roberta Jocius
Robert Kania
John Kappes
Mark Karmel
Melanie Karmel
Charity Kehoe
Tami Kepshire
Becky Konoyima

Geri Kotyuk
Kathy Kotyuk
Leslee Kretz
Richard Kretz
Annette Kulmatycki
Mike Lipinski
Bryan Lochmondy
Marissela Lynch



While teaching, students laugh at Mr. McCoy once again funny jokes. We can see that Junior, Ross Bailey takes in the humor with full open mouth laughter. I'm sure the rest of the class felt the same.



On plan hour Mr. Mundt took time to come down to the Publications room to take in the atmosphere. Most likely he won't get a lot of work done, but it's always a pleasure having him.

Jill Mangold
Carrie Martin-Smith
Ashley McCune
Patrick Moody
Helen Mundell
Marston Mundt
Ralph Mundt
Linda Parker



Robert Parker
Sheila Parker
Linda Peda
Rob Prellwitz
Jill Redmon
Wanda Rice
Aaron Riegle
Virgina Rivera



Our Janitorial Staff here at Portage High School is absolute amazing. They are always there ready and willing to do there jobs with a great big smile with kind responses



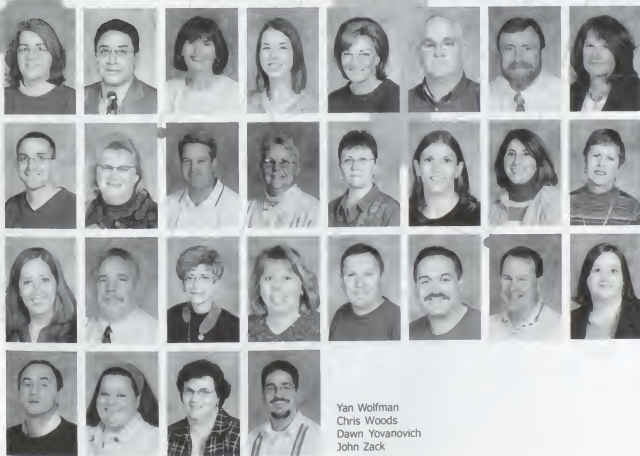
Always there, sitting at her desk Mrs. Gordon is ready for any challenge. She is always on top of every situation raring to go. We thank her for being such a great secretary to our principal staff.





Never a dull moment in Mrs. Brown's laboratory. She takes time in between classes to clean up all the utensils that were used through out her classes.

After class Mr. Schott takes time out to finish grading his latest homework assignment given. Putting grades in his gradebook is always a must.



Carolyn Rodea
Jose Rodea
Millie Ruzbasan
Sabrina Scroggin
Rita Serednyj
Larry Shepard
Darrell Shultz
Marjorie Slankowski

Jeff Smenyak
Debbie Smith
Tim Somers
Marcia Soyster
Barbara Spitzer
Heather Spoljaric
Lisa Spoolstra
Susan Squire

Elissa Stearns
Charles Stevenson
Madeline Summers
Jennifer Symer
Robert Symer
William Timmernen
Charles Tomes
Cassandra Wallace

Yan Wolfman
Chris Woods
Dawn Yovanovich
John Zack

Do Teachers like
the new schedule for
Fall of '07?

**About 63% said No
And
About 37% said Yes**



In the middle of class Mrs. Andrea Flynn takes time to read aloud the pronunciation of certain French words the class had time with.



Many different teachers take shifts watching the front door. Each teacher must make sure everyone who walks through our doors have on a helmet.



When taking time out of class Ms. Horazy helps students individually on homework. She hopes that they will understand Math when she's done.

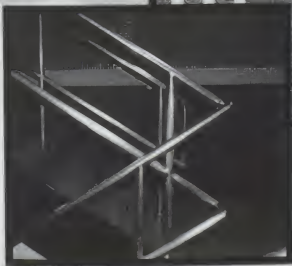
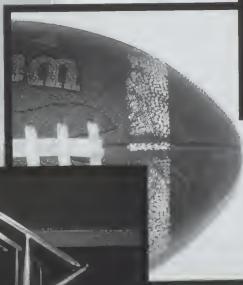
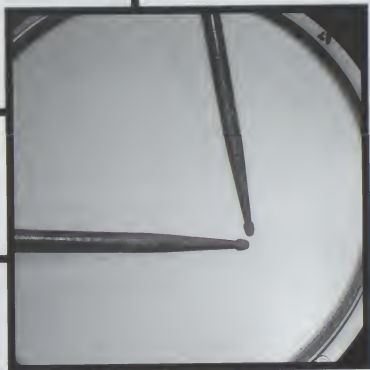
How many Teacher's like our new addition?

**About 56% said Yes
And
About 44% said No**





Academic



Art Connecting Students to Everyday Life

Throughout the years, students take countless classes oriented around math, science, and English in order to obtain their high school diploma and prepare themselves for their future careers. Many are not conscious of the numerous important influences art, in its various forms, has on one's basic, everyday life.

Art, in its numerous areas of study, offers an outlet of expression for students and teachers alike. Whether or not students will go on to pursue a career in one of the multiple fields the art world has to offer is completely irrelevant, this subject plays a significant role in the lives of many each and every day despite the career path they choose to follow.

Subconsciously, art is used in many ways, whether one is deciding which outfit to wear the next day, designing

web pages and blogs, or simply snapping pictures of friends art is put to use without thinking twice.

The wide range of classes offered such as: two dimensional art, painting, ceramics, photography, drawing, and jewelry allow students to have an assortment of choices depending on their individual interests. These classes provide students with necessary skills needed in life. Art teaches patience, creativity, perseverance, and responsibility. These skills are essential regardless of the career path chosen.

Both teachers and students use self-expression each day, a key element in the fundamentals of art. In many different ways these various art classes aid in the further development of this ability. Whether students are completing a painting, taking a

photograph, or molding a sculpture out of clay expression is invested into each and every piece of work completed.

For students interested in further education of art there are multiple higher level art classes offered as well. These classes concentrate on the more specific aspects of art. This is the next step in connecting serious art students to their future careers. They provide students with the skills required to gain a better understanding of their subject, and prepare themselves for college.

Whether interested students are furthering their knowledge for their occupation or just for fun, art plays an important role in life. The skills learned from art connect with individuals from everyday simple tasks to the most complex subjects.



As a final project, junior Kathleen Hargarten puts the finishing touches on her portrait for Mrs. Stojic's third block class. In her spare time Hargarten explores another medium of art, clogging which she has been involved in for many years.



To aid a fellow student in the beginning steps of painting her portrait seniors Natalie Moyado and Wendy Spacek work together to complete the portrait. Both students plan to continue their education in art in the fall in the Chicago school system.





What are the

Kathleen Hargarten



Junior

Benefits?

As senior Jonathan Ludwig prepares to place the finishing touches on his painting he reaches for the proper materials to aid him in completing his project. The painting was of a fellow class member senior Marcus Kuta.



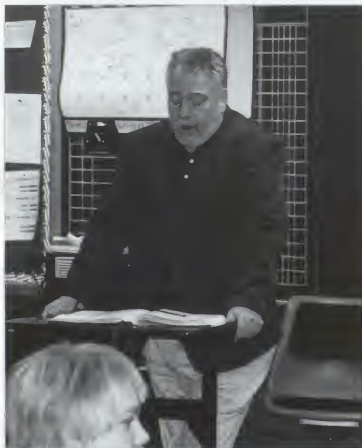
After sketching her model senior Natalie Moyado begins to apply the paint to her portrait. Moyado has been involved in art of various kinds for many years and will be attending Columbia University Chicago in the Fall.



Proof that painting class is enjoyable senior Wendy Spacek and junior Brianna Back laugh as their teacher Mrs. Cynthia Stojic finds ways to make the class fun for all involved. Continuing her art education Spacek plans to attend the Art Institute in Chicago.

A new addition to the business staff is Mr. Charles Stevenson. Prior to joining the business teaching staff at Portage High School, Stevenson worked as a substitute teacher. He has been able to immediately make a connection with his students here.

The Business Professionals of America is a program that business students take part in. Students involved in BPA get the chance to travel to national competitions in major cities. Students raise funds for trips by selling cookies at the SCU before school.



WHAT BUSINESS FACT SHOULD

	Mr. Bryan Lockmoundy It took McDonald's twelve years to develop and introduce their salads.		Mrs. Marisela Lynch If you invest \$2100/year from 22-30 in Mutual Funds at a 10% rate of return you will have made \$475,000 by the time you reach age 65.
<i>Teacher</i>		<i>Teacher</i>	

ALL STUDENTS KNOW?

One excellent resource at PHS is the Student Credit Union, run by the students in the Banking and Credit class. Students like junior Trisha Berryman can take advantage of the service provided by the Regional Federal Credit Union through PHS.

Taking Care of Business

CULP - The business academy at Portage High school includes classes that can be used both in everyday life and for students who plan to continue into business-related careers after high school. Basic business classes such as keyboarding and various computer application classes help students with projects in other classes. More advanced business classes such as marketing and management can help students with their own businesses.

For instance, senior Radley Alcantara, who has aspirations to own several companies, find skills learned from business classes to be relevant in his own business, R2 Video Productions.

The Banking and Credit class, advised by Mrs. Marissela Lynch, connects both the students of the class and the rest of PHS students with the "real world." Students in this class run the Student Credit Union, which can be found next to the bookstore before school and during lunch hours. The students gain knowledge and experience working as tellers at the SCU that they may use in other occupations. Also, any student of Portage High School may open up an account with the Student Credit Union and start saving their money - an essential part of life after school.

"A Student Credit Union account can help students later in life by preparing

them for their future banking accounts that they will have as adults," junior Natalie Vahary and senior Everette Foster say in agreement. "It teaches students how to open and close accounts, make withdrawals and deposits, endorse and cash checks, and it also helps students manage money on their own."

The skills learned through business classes can help in other classes as well. Beginning and Advanced Computer Applications deals in part with the program PowerPoint, a program often used by students in other classes for presentations. These classes also help with career goals of students.

"I want to work for a large company in the advertising department," junior Anthony Donohue says. "It is fun to come up with new ideas to advertise and promote. Desktop publishing helps me to create new ideas."

As Mr. Bryan Lochmond points out, business is an inescapable force. Speaking on business-related items of everyday life, he says, "We need to pay taxes, budget, be a wise consumer, communicate problems, save for emergencies, prepare for retirement, borrow money, invest, and have an occupation." Along with making connections for students in other classes, the various classes of the business academy helps to connect a student with everyday things that they will ultimately have to face later in life.



In preparation of a summer business project, senior Joseph Morales and business teacher Bryan Lochmond work on a plan on the computer. The project being worked on will facilitate the use of both the business and engineer academies.

Every incoming freshman is required to take Career Explorations. Freshman Nathan Hurley here presents his end-of-term research project on what it is like to be a diesel mechanic. This project is a requirement to pass.

When working with power tools, safety is of major importance to the operator and for the crew at the work site. Here, a student demonstrates proper safety methods by wearing his safety goggles.

Precision is important when building anything as complicated as a house. Making sure all of the angles are correct and the seams between the building joints are correct will save the homeowner from future heartaches.



With a contractor in the room making sure that the job is done correctly, the vocational student is putting the finishing touches on the dry wall that was recently hung. Making sure the seams between the panels are invisible makes the wall visually pleasing.





With brick being an outstanding insulator, the students learn how to properly build with the material. Here a student is placing a brick and scraping away any excess cement so the wall looks nice.



Wanna Find A Way To Get Out Of Your Typical Boring Classes???

LAMBERT - Okay, now that I have your attention, LISTEN UP! "What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's the question that haunts us through our young lives. It even starts as early as toddlerhood when your favorite toy is a doctor kit. "Aw! Look at Timmy! He's going to be a doctor when he grows up!" How are you supposed to know at age 3 when you just like the toys because they're pointy? That's what school's for right? We get an education to grow up and be something. Your career can make or break you. The vocational programs offered here at Portage High School are extremely good opportunities to get a jumpstart on your career.

PHS offers many different kinds of vocational programs to attend. Here is a summary: Auto Technology, Business Technology, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, Education & Early Childhood Careers, Industrial Mechanics, Introduction to Printing, Printing Technology, Work-Study Program, Dental Health Careers, Medical Terminology/Anatomy and Physiology, Fundamentals of Sports

Medicine, Computer Aided Design and Animation, Electronics and Computer Technology, Health Careers, Health Occupations, Modern Medicine, Marketing Internship, Sports & Entertainment Marketing/Business Ownership, TV Productions/Telecommunications, Hair Design and Cosmetology, Landscaping, Law Enforcement Careers, and Welding.

Why would you want to drop out of school and be a bum when you have all these great classes that could jump start you on a career. For instance if you take Cosmetology, you can get your license and work at a salon soon after. If you take Auto Mechanics, you can graduate and immediately work at an auto store and start making good money. It will also look really good on college applications and resumes for your future career.

You can pick up more information at Guidance. The earlier you look into it, the better. Programs will fill up fast and you need to start some of the programs when you are a sophomore or junior.



Vocational teacher Dennis Cletcher overlooks his students work after a long day in class. Cletcher has been teaches students for many years, but decided to retire after one last house.



While working on the weekly vocabulary lesson, sophomore Spencer Rosenberger seeks help from teacher Mr. Charles Neff. He substituted for Mrs. Carrie Martin-Smith while she was on maternity leave. He connected well with the students here.



Two students face off in a debate in one of their English classes. Debate and public speaking skills that are sometimes neglected by today's students, are essential skills that students will need later in their lives.

Do you connect

For Di Cleave



English connects with my life because it's the language that I speak. It's also one of my favorite ways to express myself on paper.

Sophomore

with English

While leading a round table discussion in class, all eyes and ears are on senior Ashley Davis. The English classes offer a variety of opportunities and experiences that give students the chance to excel.





English: the keys to success and happiness in life

GALINDO - When it comes to school and life in general, English stands as a very big part of one's life. It stands a purpose in everything you do. Without English, the things we do today would not be nearly as easy. English is obviously an essential in everyday life.

When asked about what pathways to careers English could lead a student to, Mrs. Barbara Mason said, "Really anything. It can lead you to journalism, creative writing, law, or other performances."

English is needed for quite a bit of reasons. Obviously we all need English when we are doing an assignment in school and to get a job somewhere. Needless to say, without this valuable piece of help, things we do today would be one of the hardest things to do.

Sophomore Spencer Rosenberger said this when asked about what enjoyable things were done in class. "I really enjoy when we do the poems and get to read things we've written. I like showing people what I've done."

Something we all need English for, but may not actually notice is when we speak. Without English, we really wouldn't be able to speak back and

forth.

The very words that come out of our mouth are English (unless we are speaking another language that is). When we are paying attention in class while a teacher is speaking, or even when we are just having a casual conversation with someone, we need English to be able to understand what they are saying.

Now, whether or not someone will head towards a job in the English field, English is still a must in life. You may become a journalist, carpenter, or simply a stay at home person; English will always be something that you will use.

A reason English is helpful is when it comes to writing. We all need time to express our feelings and when we feel that no one is listening we can write it down. Writing is an outlet for many things.

"English is a great way to express yourself. It helps you get all types of feelings out, whether it is angry, sad, or happy," said Sophomore Joseph Di Cicco.

As can be seen, English is a very important aspect of school life and the real world.



One activity used in many English classes is keeping a journal of personal thoughts and creating a portfolio of the students in class accomplishments. Here a student is journaling about the debate that he just witnessed in his English class.

When told the assignment for the day, sophomore Tim Sandrey begins to read the story. Mrs. Carrie Martin-Smith teaches 10th grade English as well as debate. She has been known to connect with her students in very helpful ways.

F.A.C.S. classes prove beneficial for students of all grades

CULP - Every year, students are required to enter into classrooms where they will be taught math, science, English, and social studies. While these academic subjects are important in the survival of one's life, one academy teaches students the life skills necessary to truly be able to make it in the real world. The Family and Consumer Science academy, commonly abbreviated as F.A.C.S., helps students to grow as they learn important cooking skills, relationship skills, and child rearing skills.

"I really enjoy teaching the students about children and how to communicate with them," states Mrs. Julie Goetz. "I am also able to teach them about a child and mother's health during pregnancy."

The teachers of the various F.A.C.S. classes are able to bring their real life experiences into their teaching curriculum, making for a much more beneficial learning experience for the students.

"I try to share my life experiences when relevant, and ask my students to do the same," explains Mrs. Sabrina Scroggin. "I always want my students to see the value of what they learn by applying the concepts into their own lives."

The F.A.C.S. classes can lead students to several different career paths. One may choose to enter into the culinary field by entering into Nutrition and Wellness, as well as the

subsequent Advanced Nutrition and Foods. One may prepare themselves for the wonders of child rearing through the Child Development class. Students are able to discover the fashion field through the Fashion and Textiles classes.

Every student, however, is able to benefit from the Adult Roles and Responsibilities class. In this class, seniors will build the knowledge and skills necessary for life after high school. Relationship skills are discussed and instilled into the students of this class.

"F.A.C.S. classes teach important skills such as decision-making, communication, leadership, goal setting, and management of self and resources," says Scroggin. "These skills are highly transferable in every aspect of life."

The importance of F.A.C.S. classes are clearly seen by the students who choose to put them on their schedule.

"I decided to take F.A.C.S. classes because they are fun and you learn so much," says senior Michael Arnold.

One student who chose to take classes dealing with the fashion field, junior Sarah Castaneda, explains what she was able to learn through those classes.

"I loved the fashion class," she says. "I learned how to sew, knit, and stitch all in nine weeks. It was a lot of fun!"

Many students will let their high school careers pass by without giving any thought to the classes in the academy of F.A.C.S. These classes, however, are very beneficial for every student.



In an attempt to get a feeling of the physically impossible, senior Mark Magana lays on the ground with a "pregnant belly" on. Students in child development all get the chance to experience the weight carried by pregnant mothers.





Whatever lifestyle you choose to involve yourself in, junior Michael Martinez, sophomore Samuel Hardison, and junior Devaron Hawkins show that the power of milk extends in this parody "Got Milk" advertisements.

The students in Mrs. Scroggin's Adult Roles class take a break to rest and relax after lunch. The class listened to Scroggin as she read a script explaining ways to make yourself relax. Most of the class were so relaxed that they fell asleep.

What is your favorite

Freshman Hunter



My favorite F.A.C.S. class was Nutrition & Wellness. I loved learning about nutrition and how to take care of my body. The cooking was also a lot of fun.

Junior

F.A.C.S. class?



While in Advance Foods, junior Dexter Watkins and sophomore Natalie Ziulkowski learn how to make a braided yeast loaf of bread. Students in this class have the chance to learn how to make various pastries and breads throughout the term.



Students in Nutrition and Wellness pose for their own "Got Milk" advertisement for a class assignment. Freshman Shane Hall, senior Aaron Shebish, and freshman Matthew Dogan show the physical benefits of drinking milk.

Et vous? Parlez-vous une langue étrangère ?

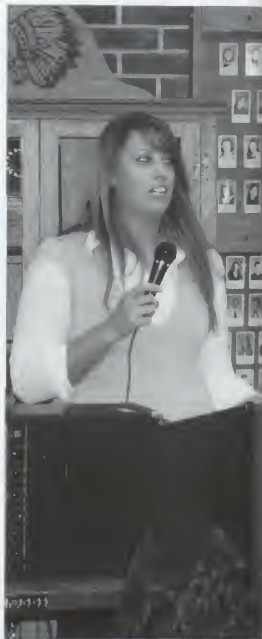
Spanish teacher and Latin Guitar Club sponsor Carolyn Rodea lights the candles of inductees when their name is called. The FLHS was created years ago by some foreign language teachers to stress language's importance in our busy world.

Holding the candle and reciting the Foreign Language Honor Society pledge, a new class on students is inducted in this prestigious group. Some students have been inducted for multiple languages.



Lighting a candle from the "eternal flame" of language, Spanish teacher Agripa Monsavais prepares to induct new students into the FLHS. Spanish is actually the number one language in a growing number of the students homes.

A Valparaiso University student expounds on the importance of not only studying a foreign language, but the importance of going overseas for the cultural experiences. The VU students were from a class taught by Carolyn Rodea for future teachers.





Awaiting for all of the student's candles to be lit, senior Michael Bodnar patiently waits to be inducted in the FLHS. Foreign language classes can break the barriers of misunderstanding that sometime seem to plague the world today.



Sophomore Douglas Coffman cannot help but smile as Spanish teacher Jose Rodea inducts him for the first time. Coffman is not only a good student, but plays on the school's soccer team as well.

Speaking eloquently, Latin teacher William Schott spends a few moments discussing the important reasons to study Latin. Schott was a favorite teacher among many students for his intelligence and sense of humor.

A gateway to a better understanding of math

REDDEN - From the basics to higher-level education, math has been a continuous class since grade school. Always adding on a new skill to a previous one enhancing the knowledge that one is to use out in the "real world". The usage of math may be helpful in many situations such as balancing a checkbook or to something more difficult as, architectural design. These math classes carry over to many other classes like chemistry and design classes.

"A lot of chemistry is math especially your second term, you must at least know the fundamental skills to make it through," explained senior Alisha Lira. As a child, many teachers use hands on tools like M&M's to show how to add and subtract. As one would progress through grades, many have found math to become more dull and boring longing for the days that simple little hard shell candies would help them learn a skill needed to solve a problem. Despite the challenge of making a math lesson fun and easy, many teachers have found away to do just that.

"Making F.O.I.L.ing faces when multiplying binomials is my favorite part of teaching my subject. The Frankenstein monster is my personal favorite. I also try to keep my students guessing. They

are never quite sure if I was kidding or if I really mean it!" explained math teacher, Mr. Hodges.

"When are we actually going to ever use this? This is a frequently heard question among many math classes. There is a multitude of responses to this question. The simplest being that in college you must know what is being taught to you in order to do well in the mandatory math classes you have. For those with a substantial background in math, an unlimited number of career opportunities are available.

"What is math good for? Life is full of math, ever heard of money?" proposed Hodges.

According to the "best" job list, almost the entire top fifty careers need math. The jobs listed were based on the income, future outlook, physical demands, job security, stress, and work environment.

Some careers that one interested in math may want to consider for a future living are: actuary, math teacher, statistician, physician, scientist, and inventory specialist.

Mathematics is a great foundation for, and usually is a prerequisite to, study in all areas of science and engineering.

Overall math is used everyday even in the simplest task.



While listening to Miss Carlson's instructions, junior Christopher Thorn sits back and takes in the notes. Paying attention during notes is vital to the comprehension of many math lessons that are taught.

While reviewing for an upcoming test junior Mathew Gugliemetti ask math teacher Mrs. Lochmondy to look over his work. Lochmondy teaches many of the upper level math classes, such as Algebra 2x, and Pre-Calculus.



In her pre-cal class, senior Jessica Bolint seeks assistance on a homework problem from her math teacher Mrs. George. Many teachers are more than willing to help any students that ask for help.

During pre-calculus class senior, Shannon Alexander explains a problem from their assignment to junior, Eric Spear. In math classe, re-explaining a problem in a different form often helps students to comprehend the problem they need help with.

Where do you

Jordan Hart



"I use math every single day in such things as, basic accounting and various other task that one does daily."

Senior

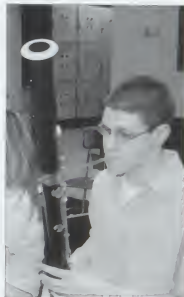
Use Math??



After been shown an example, senior Rochelle Anderson puts her notes to the test and tries a sample problem on her own during a pre-calculus class. Though it is not required, many seniors make the decision to take pre-cal to prepare for college.

While working together on an pre-cal assignment, junior Cassandra Janis and senior Jasmine Carabello work on a problem together. Sometimes math teachers allow their students to pair up to make sure everyone understands the lesson.

Playing the oboe is not necessarily the first instrument that comes to mind for high school student musicians, but it is mostly used in orchestras. Many Italian composers such as Antonio Vivaldi wrote concertos for the instrument



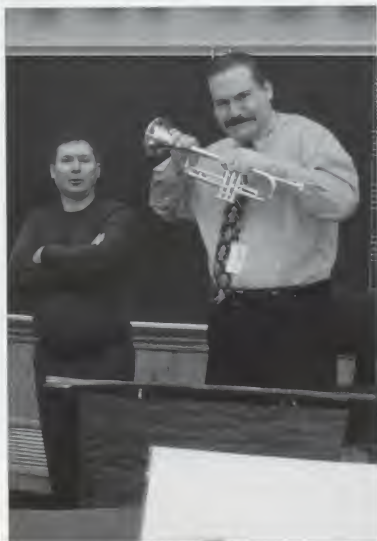
Paying close attention to the sheet music, this student flutist does her best to keep in pace with the rest of the band. The flute is played by blowing across a hole in the instrument, rather like blowing over the top of an empty bottle



*Music classes
help spread joy
and diversity
among all.*

Orchestras are broken down into four main parts: strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. Here woodwinds, the saxophone, and brass, the tubas, combine to make beautiful music together in class.

Why is that student playing the instrument upside down? Technically she is practicing a method called hand-stopping. Hand-stopping involves placing a hand in the bell of the horn to alter the pitch of the natural notes.



Making a funny face, music teach William Timmerman works out the kinks of a student's trumpet. This light approach and levity in class makes the students enjoy their time while trying to play their best in class.

Being a percussion player not only means playing the typical drum sets, but playing specialized drums like the timpani. Most orchestral music by composers like Mozart and Beethoven only use timpani.

Fitness is gym, fitness is health, fitness is YOU!

ECHTERLING AND RODRIQUEZ

When it comes to school, or life for example, gym and health class are here so that one may become more aware of how the human body works. These classes also teach one how to become healthy and fit. More and more students are worried about their weight. Since a lot of students are concerned with their weight, they want to go on diets.

"Students are worried about their weight because too many of them listen to the media and are influenced

by what they see." Says Junior Beth Rosas.

When learning about your body in health class, one may learn that going on a diet may cause some health problems. Although going on a starvation is not good to ones health, it is a proven fact that when one starts to eat again, one will gain weight. Diets can not hurt ones physical health as long as one eats the right foods and does the correct things necessary to stay fit.

"I don't think kids our age should

go on diets because they may become anorexic or bulimic later on in life." Stated Junior Teresa Singh after being asked what she thought about highschool students going on diets.

Exercise is another way to keep ones body in shape. What better place to do that then gym? Gym helps one keep up on a daily exercise routine and one also gets credit for it.

Stay fit, learn about your body, and use it to your advantage. It will help you in the future.

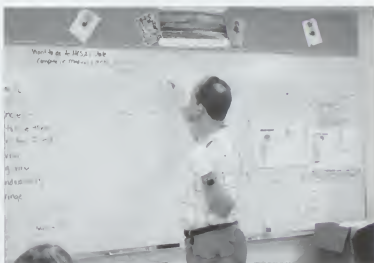
While playing basketball with his students, Mr. Ortiz heads for the rebound. One of his students failed to score a shot for his team. He leaps for the ball, while overshadowing his students trying so hard to get that ball.





Good volleyball skills are important when playing the game. Senior Kristoper Robinson shows off his skills when he jumps up in the air to spike the ball against the other team. Volleyball is a fun game to take part in during gym class.

The heart is a very important organ in our bodies. Mr. Dan Merrill takes time to show his class the different sections of the human heart. The information obtained by the students may help them decide what health career they want to take part in.



What is one cool fact that you

Ruby Hernandez



"In health I learned that the blood moves through the body in a continuous pathway called the Pulmonary and Systemic circulation."

Junior

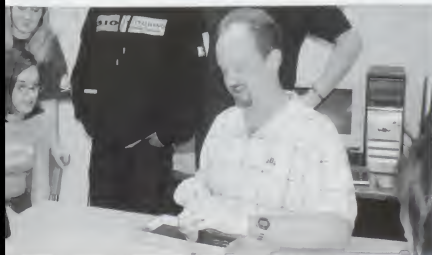
Maria Clark



"I'm not sure about a cool fact that I have learned, but in health we did get to dissect a brain, an eyeball, and a heart."

Junior

have learned in gym or health?



A cow's heart was interesting to students in Mr. Merrill's 4th block. He cut the heart in half to show them the inside parts. Cows have the same parts inside their heart as we do in ours so it works as an almost perfect demonstration.

The technology education classes were asked to design and build mini trebuchets, or for the common man, catapults. Here students are making final adjustments to their devices before trying them out for the first time in the commons.

The trebuchet uses some very basic principles of design and physics. By using a series of pulleys and a counterweight, medieval soldiers would use the weapons when sieging a castle or another army.



Taking aim to make his shot the farthest, this student adjusts the angle on which he will shoot the projectile. Trebuchets were far more accurate than other forms of medieval artillery, and were often used to destroy specific sections of wall.



*Trebuchets:
weapon of the
past; lesson
for the now*



Building and operating the trebuchets were idea of Mr. Timothy Somers. Somers is the lead teacher in the nationally acclaimed program "Project Lead The Way" and has since enticed other teachers to expand the program at PHS.



Ready. Aim. FIRE! These students launch their trebuchet as another student is ready to mark the projectile's distance. The class had a small battle of egos to see who's contraption could launch a projectile the longest distance.

Peer tutors teach and learn valuable life lessons.

Beaudreau - There are more than 20 Special Education teachers here at Portage High School. Not all of the teachers intended to be in this kind of field when they first started out in college.

Mr. Prellwitz started out as an art major while he was in college. By the series of events he ended up going into the special education field. He is still able to enjoy art though. He gets to teach the students in the program a little bit about art.

Peer tutoring is one of the most important parts of this entire program. Without the peer tutors, the students would not get the one on one interaction that they get each day.

This year the students opportunities have been cut back. There are not enough peer tutors to go on field trips.

A few times a year, the peer tutors will go with the students out into the public during a school day to experience real life situations that they might not be able to experience. They get to go to Walmart and see how to exchange money for goods whether it is a candy bar, a necklace, or some

baseball cards. Without peer tutors, it makes the possibilities very limited.

Most of the students that have been peer tutors said it was a really good experience. Brittany Tapper said, "When I first started, I thought it would be hard working with kids with disabilities. But then, I learned that I enjoy working with kids like Daniel. He is always in a good mood. He always brightens my day. He makes me feel really comfortable when I come in."

Danielle Riggs said, "From working with Cassie, I learned that LRE students aren't that different from anyone else. Cassie likes the same things as other teenagers and lives the same kind of life that other teenagers lives as well."

Making connections with these students is one of the most important parts of being a peer tutor. If you can not relate to the students the way that they need then you can not understand what they are thinking. "I make connections with the students because I feel that I am a good listener. I am very patient person. I am also very sensitive to others people's feelings. I always treat people the way I would want to be treated," said peer tutor Randi Stone.





Foreign exchange students Gesse Araujo Filho and Humberto Gracia Leal express laughter as Mr. McCoy tells his class a joke. Both juniors enjoy taking a class work break to laugh with their classmates at McCoy.

With finals right around the corner, Junior Betsy Brown jots down some choice essay questions given to the class by the teacher. Students aren't told which one will be on the final, so it's a good idea to write and study them both.



The moose lands on the desk of Junior Steven Bain, which means it's his turn to pick a topic for the next Jeopardy question during his U.S. History class. Jeopardy is a great game to take part in the day before finals to help one study for the test.



While participating in a game of Jeopardy, Junior Holly Banic takes a glance at her U.S. History book for the answer to the next question. Students are allowed to help themselves and their teammates out by checking for the correct answer in the book.





With an out-going personality like McCoy's, it isn't too surprising to see him with his hands in the air like he just doesn't care. Students enjoy having this comedian for a teacher to lessen the stressful school day and bring smiles to their faces.

WHY DO YOU THINK SOCIAL

Junior, Lewis



Social studies is important because we have to be made aware of what our country has already gone through so we can learn from it.

Junior,

STUDIES IS IMPORTANT?

Connection to Social Studies. Story and photos by: *Jasmine Rodriguez*

Social studies, is not just your third block class in which you forgot to do your homework for last night. It is many different things and also has many connections to student and teacher life. Social studies is taught not only to inform you about the past, but to help you out later in life.

"This class will help me realize why some things are happening now. Some things happening now might be because of something that happened in the past," Junior Nicole Clark says after being asked how Social studies will help her.

This course is important for a numerous amount of reasons. It is believed by some that its importance is so that all Americans are aware of what has happened on our land. Some believe that History class is most important just so that we are informed on what happened in earlier times. Others, such as Junior Rebecca Riggles, believe that it is more than that.

"We have to know about the past," she says, "so when it repeats itself we don't make the same mistake."

Social studies isn't all just work, work, work, there are fun times too. Whether you are Mrs. Parker trying to lecture little and laugh a lot or Mr. McCoy doing his wacky impression of Velcro-Man. It seems that a lot of students can connect to McCoy because of his goofy antics and funny actions.

After being asked who her favorite history teacher was, Junior Stephanie Rosenbaum states, "Mr. McCoy, because he doesn't take everything serious, and he knows how to lighten the mood."

Everyone has his or her own favorite part of history. For a student it can be learning about our first president or for a teacher is can be teaching the 1960's.

"I could spend the whole term on just this decade! The music, incredible events, amazing people, like wow, man! The 60's is where it's at," Parker says.

One may only be connected to social studies just to pass and get the required credit, or to learn about our country's independence, either way, we all have a certain connection to social studies.



Organizations

Student Council promotes leadership and communication

Each year student council gets involved with the student body. It is obviously all about students. This organization is a great way to make friends and learn how to become a leader. The students do a lot to help out around the school and think of fun activities for our student body. They take pride in what they do for not only our school but also for our community.

There are many things done throughout the year that the student council have came up with to learn leadership skills and to have fun. During the half time show of our fourth annual faculty-student basketball game, the student council presented each student with a colored lei and presented us with a bully themed show. They told us the effects bullying has on our school and what we should try to do to change it. These are the kinds of things they do for us; they show us things from a student's point of view.

Kimberly Payne is the president and Sarah Cates is the vice president, Olivia Zamarron is treasurer and Bryan Norkus is secretary. They have each contributed to student council a great deal. The entire student council takes the time to make sure we will all learn but have fun at the same time.

On April 19, 2006, the student council joined along with many other students chosen to come together and spend the day showing middle school students what student council is all about. Chuck Roach came out and led the seminar. There was a pirate theme that went over well with students; they all had their own personal pirate hat. It symbolized jumping aboard the ship. Chuck talked in depth about teaching kids that it is okay to get out of their comfort zones. He was very enthusiastic and that got the kids to join along. They had the lunchroom to themselves and spent the entire school day to with each other

and making new friends.

They have many duties to fulfill, but this is all done while having fun. Each student comes together and separates their differences to open themselves up and better themselves as an individual. Communicating with each other and helping out the student body is what it's all about.

Being a part of this organization helps everyone to become friends. They do their best to represent our school when they leave the halls of Portage High School. Whether it be off to an event for the day or going home together, it's about hard work and friendship. If you have these qualities and are willing to work together with other students and come out of your shell, then student council is the place where you belong.

Written by: Heidi Richie

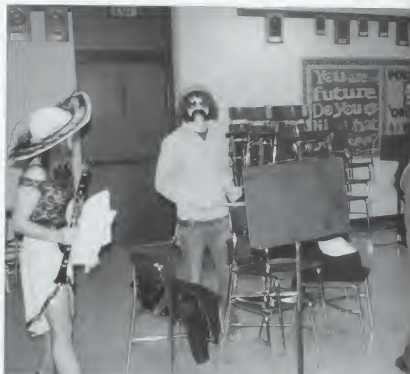




Music Department's Halloween Boo-tacular











Art Classes; Art Club provides creative outlet for students

Danielle Prusynski

Art is the key to expressionism. There is many different ways one can convey oneself through art: by painting, drawing, molding, and capturing a feeling. A piece of art has more than meets the eye. One can experience what the person is feeling through their work and know exactly what they were thinking at the time if the time is taken to interpret and admire their piece. Getting together with friends and expressing it is sometimes easier, talking about the art and getting ideas from others. That is what the art club is all about: socializing and coming together to create wonderful works of many different and unique types of art.

The Art Club is an after school club ran by Mrs. Katie Ross. They meet every Tuesday in Room 116.

When asked about the welcoming of anyone

Ross replied, "Absolutely, we're always looking for new members. Even if they can not make it every time." The students are working on a mural for the major project of this year. Looking toward the future, Ross said, "I would like to do more murals in the future because they lend well to group involvement."

True, working together to make a project is always more fun. It may take a while longer to get the job done, because your friends are there and goofing off, but it always turns out better in the end because you are putting two different people's ideas together.

The art club has been going on for 30 years now. Mrs. Paula Weise ran it for a few years, while Mr. Timothy Eich ran it prior to Mrs. Ross's arrival. Through the year, the art club has been a part in decorating the media center, the Portage Hospital and Portage High School West with beautiful works of art throughout

the halls.

The Tuesday regulars to are sophomore Benjamin Levin and senior Lauren Dunning. Others may show up at meetings, but those are two of the regulars. Many students come a lot of the time just to catch up on their own artwork for class, but the students who truly love art stay for the club.

Not only does Mrs. Ross help out with the art club, but Mrs. Cynthia Stojic also comes in and helps with the fundraising of the club, working hard to make money for the fun things the club tries to put forward for the students.

Looking to see some work done by the students in the art club, the art section of the school is a great place to view it. The mural they have been working on is not out yet, but there are always other pieces of art to glance at and explore.



Future Artists Practicing Their Craft







Foreign Language Honors Society
By: Stephanie Sowers

The Foreign Language Honors Society is led by Mr. Rodea.

The Foreign Language Honors Society is open to all students in a foreign language after their first year. They must receive three consecutive "A's" before becoming eligible to be apart of this honors society.

The Foreign Language Honors Society does participate in one special activity and that would be induction night. In order to participate in induction night, you must receive an invitation welcoming you to become part of this honors society. Upon not returning your invitation you are giving up your right to be apart of the Foreign Language Honors Society.

In order for the Foreign Language department to consider accepting you into the honors society, they will look at your overall behavior towards the language and how committed you are to the language.

Each year, approximately sixty-seventy students are inducted into the honors society. Since Mr. Rodea has been apart of the Portage High School staff, he has inducted around three hundred and sixty students.

Currently to be in Foreign Language Honors Society, there is no required grade point average for any other classes except for you foreign language. They are trying to make it a standard that one must meet though.

This year induction ceremony will be held May 4, 2006, in the South Commons. Good luck to all students participating.

The students who participate in Foreign Language Honors Society should feel privileged that they have made the grades and passed a foreign language with three consecutive "A's"

Portage High School offers many different foreign languages such as; Spanish; French; German; Chinese; Latin; and Japanese. With a wide variety of languages, anybody could make their way into The Foreign Language Honors Society with just a little bit of extra effort.



*Foreign Language Honor
Society Recognizes Student
Achievement*







59th Edition Choraliers



Ashley Bartolac,
Kylie Beaudreau,
Casey Bergner,
Rachael Bolen,
Jeanne Brys,
Alyson Cox,
Jennifer Dusard,
Brittany Evola,
Melissa Hale,
Felicia Hendricks,
Amanda Krga,
Kim Lunn,
Ali Prassas,
Stephanie Rosenbaum,
Jessica Rosendaal,
Afton Ryals,
Dani Sommers,
Heather Spence,
Carolyn Tackett,
Brittany Williams,

Officers
President
Amanda Krga
Vice Presidents
Kylie Beaudreau and
Melissa Hall
Secretary
Brittany Williams
Treasurer
Rachael Bolen
Librarian
Jeanne Brys
Historian
Alyson Cox

Make it work!

"Make it work!" is one of the mottos that the Choraliers work by. If you don't get along with someone, "Make it work." If you have to dance in an area that is much smaller than you are used to, "Make it work." If you had a bad day, "Make it work." Situations and scenarios are sometimes changed and the Choraliers are ready for it.

Choraliers practice in the west auditorium after school each day until about 4 o'clock. Some days of the week practice will be scheduled until 7 or 8 at night.

Choraliers counts for a grade. For every term you participate in you earn half a credit toward an elective. The program has not been put on STI but still counts as a grade. It is considered block 5 at the end of the day.

"Getting to know the girls is the best part," said junior Jessica Rosendaal. "I love being able to learn about different people and how they

work together in such a fun group."

Jennifer Dusard said, "Choraliers was so much fun this year. My favorite part is learning the new dances. The choreographers did a really great job this year. The Frosty Hand Jive was one of my favorites to do even though we weren't standing up dancing. I hope next year is just as fun!"

The Choraliers have been a group for 59 years. One of the previous choraliers Krista King comes in and teaches moves to the group.

The uniforms have been chosen by the group for the past few years. Mr. Riegler approves three dresses chosen by the officers and then the group gets to vote on which one they like the best. Each dress chosen is based on school colors. The shoes chosen are black dance shoes. All girls have the same black shoes but of course different sizes.

Normally the choraliers perform at many different events during the holiday

season in December. Due to Mr. Riegler's wife having a baby, the opportunities for going out and performing at different places was very limited during the holiday season.

Tryouts for Choraliers is during the end of the school year. Persons who try out will be trying out for the next year. When trying out for Choraliers a person must learn a small portion of a dance that was performed that year and they must sing a solo from two songs chosen by Mr. Riegler.

There are a lot of ups and downs within the group. The final project is always good. Choraliers is tough to be in because of some of the disagreements that arise. When a choreographer comes in each member needs to watch very carefully to see what moves they need to perform. Choraliers is a challenging program to be a part of. It really is a lot of fun though.

Written by: Kylie Beaudreau



"Your Love (has lifted me)" was the final song that the choraliers performed this year during the annual Spring Festival. Kim Lunn and Felicia Hendricks led the lines of choraliers with made up dance moves at the end of the performance.

"Smiles for Days" is one of the Choraliers' guidelines that Rachael Bolen is living by at the performance at the Willowcreek Middle School and the Taft Middle School joint performance. The Choraliers performed between the two schools' choirs.





"Christmas Songs are my favorite part of the year," said Junior Amanda Krga. Casey Bergner, Stephanie Rosenbaum, Ashley Bartolac, and Alyson Cox sing one of the songs at the Holiday Concert that is held in early December.



At the homecoming parade Ali Prassas, Jeanne Brys, Brittany Williams, and Kylie Beaudreau throw candy to the children in the crowd. Every year the choralists order matching shirts and decorate a car for the homecoming parade.



59th Edition Choralists Jennifer Dusard, Alyson Cox and Jessica Rosendaul dance to the song "Car Wash." "Car Wash" was one of their most unique dances this school year. They got to learn new dance moves and work as a team even better than they did before.

Choir isn't only for girls!

When you think of the word choir what do you think of? Do you think of a blow off class? Do you think of laying back and just hanging out with your friends to talk? Well that is not what choir is all about at Portage High School. Here choirs are dedicated to making a beautiful sound with limited resources.

Mr. Aaron Riegler has been the choir teacher since 2003. He has helped the choir achieve two All Music awards. Mr. Riegler is always encouraging young men to join choir or try out for choralliers. From personal experience, Riegler is a hard working individual that is always seeking to find the most potential from each and everyone of his students. He is always willing to help students when they need it.

He encourages boys to join choir and choralliers because when boys are involved a new atmosphere is

born. Boys get to participate in something challenging. They are able to show off the kinds of real talents that boys have. They are able to show that boys can sing just as well as girls.

This year multiple choir students had the opportunity to compete in Indianapolis. They were able to go because they obtained a Gold rating at Regional Competition. It is an honor to be able to make it that far in this particular type of competition.

During this time students get to work in individual groups and with Mr. Riegler to learn a song of their choice that he approves. This year two ensembles that were able to go to Indianapolis were the Bielak Ensemble and the Beaudreau Ensemble. They performed and both got gold ratings from very critical judges.

If you haven't been able to take a music class during high school do it! It's a lot of work but it's also a lot of fun. Taylor Haiko said, "A perk to being in choir is

being able to sing every day instead of sitting and studying."

Written by: Kylie Beaudreau

Pictured on the right:
Kylie Beaudreau, Taylor Haiko, Sara Sowers, Cassie Creech, Amy Delturco, Brittany Evola, Sekret Merket, Beth Rosas, Logan Drees, Joe Lonergan, Timothy McGuire, Brittany Delturco, Jessie Dexter, Al Prassas, Jessica Rosendahl, Garret Abromitis, Melissa Hale, Jeanette Frahm, Amanda Krga, Brent Bielak, Nick Dove, Taylor Fleming, Derek Hollifield, Dani Sommers, Stephanie Rosendahl, Alisha Stark, Alex Stanley, Casey Bergner, Tim Thompson, Kevin Jones, Katie Nestorovich, Bekkah Davis, Dillon Albee

Not Pictured:
Megan Garner, Brandon Kestle



Girls Glee performed "Heat Wave." During their performance they did very creative dance moves to lighten the mood of the room. Girls glee achieved a gold rating at contest this year. They meet during fourth block during the school day.

In the auditorium Mr. Riegler practices with the Women's Advanced choir. Riegler said, "Be as involved as possible in all things you can in music." When asked what kind of advice he had for young choir students.



Girls Glee (Alphabetical order): Shauna Ball, Brittany Black, Christina Blackwell, Jeanne Brys, Tonya Butala, Vicky Chavez, Alyson Cox, Cassie Creech, Noelle Curran, Kristina Deleon, Jennifer Dusard, Adair Engel, Chyanne Evans, Whitney Foster, Melissa Garza, Liz Girouard, Sara Hayden, Lauren Hopper, Natalie House, Natalie Johnson, Kim Lunn, Samantha McWhirter, Amanda Mccysine, Korissa Neace, Joelle Oakes, Kayla Parrish, Breanna Patillo, Cassandra Rocha, Samantha Rodriguez, Alton Ryals, Amanda Satarnek, Stephanie Smith, Keli Stamper, Amanda Sulski, Kristin Tharp, Vickie Thomason



Advanced Mixed choir participated in the ISSMA competition and received a gold rating. They also received a gold award for sight reading. This is an accomplishment that has not been done in many years.

While in Choir Ali Prassas and Amanda Krga sing together during second block. Prassas performed in the Jazz Ensemble at Butler University along with three other students that were invited to go with Krga is the Choraliers President this year.



Since 4th grade Tim Thompson has been involved in music. He sings "Soul Man" to Taylor Halko at this year's Spring Festival that was held in the East Gym. He was Freddy in this years spring musical "My Fair Lady."

Brent Diehl senior



Any advice for next year's contest?

What is your favorite part of the year?

I would have to say contest and Solo and Ensemble is my favorite part of the year because we work independently.

Pay attention and do your very best!





Concert Choir: Amber Cox, Evyn Hale, Rachel Harris, Whitney Johnson, Ann-Marie McGee, Jessica Sobocinski, Ashley Wilson, Jessica Bedford, Elizabeth Breakfield, Carolina Carattini, Megan Coffey, Melanie Cunningham, Shannon Curry, Chris Davenport, Sean Egolf, Salena Freeman, Danielle Gaines, Michelle Gonzales, Amber Grodzetz, Taylor Haraminac, Jacob Harris, Taylor Hill, Kelsey Horton, Nicole Hudson, Megan Hulise, Amber Kemp, Kaylan Knutsen, James Lopez, Nathaniel Lowery, Kassandra Mulron, Cassandra Newlin, Matt Peksanek, Lauren Powers, Angela Ratigan, Allee Siler, Heather Spence, Heather Williamson, Kaitlin Winowitch, Jordan Wolters, Jasmine Aguilar, Christine Allison, Cassandra Balding, Elizabeth Broadie, Kaitlyn Cabanas, Frank Cole, Stephanie Cooper, Kalee Cummins, Melissa Dabu, Casey Ferguson, Sarah Fink, Tre Gantt, Ed Giordano, Raemarie Gomez, Shannon Gottschammer, Nicole Harrie, Katie Hawkins, De'Sheanna Hearst, Crystal Hedger, Kevin Jennings, Sarah Mathewson, Dynel Matvia, Michael McCorkle, Shawn Murphy, Vanessa Ontiveros, Pierre Pirtle, Justin Poe, Mary Porter-Sims, Desirea Pride, Ray Rivera, Kaitlin Sanchez, Emily Smith, Jessica Spicker, Shrona Thornton, Amber Turner, Samantha Tyika, Kadie Van Wormer, Aubrey Warwick, Robin Wheeler



*Jazz Band helps the students
start their day with music*







Marching Indians take the field

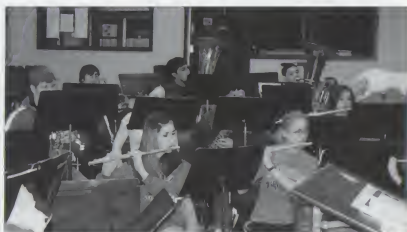


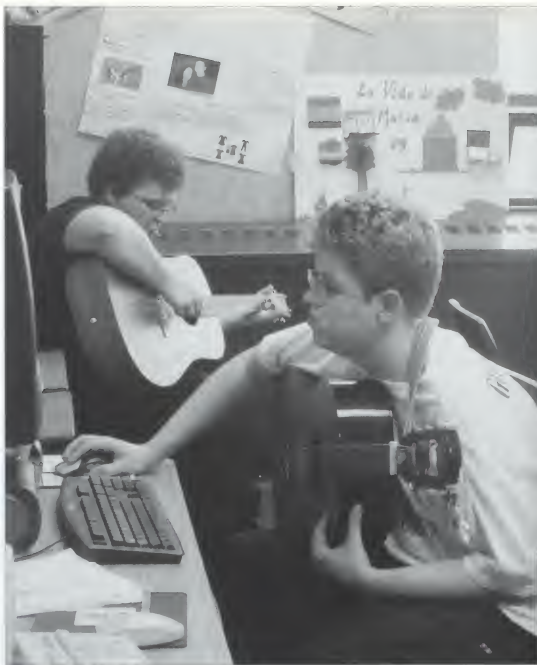


*Concert Band and
Orchestra help spread
beautiful music
throughout the
school*









*Latin Guitar Club offers
students the chance to play
a "new" form of music*



*Junior
Reserve
Officer
Training
Corps
(JROTC):*

*Supporting the
troops as well as
the community*







*Leadership
Class heads
to Gabriel's
Horn
Children's
Home*

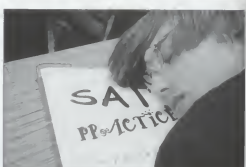
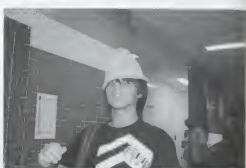


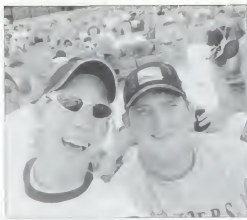




Portage Super Fans







A.C.E.S.

Academic
Champions
Excelling
in School
Class of 2006



Radley Alcantara
Mr. John Jack



Jacob Anderson
Mr. Ralph Mundi



Katherine Batista
Mr. Ruth Drake



Brandon Diller
Mr. Stephen Bartos



Mary Craighead
Ms. Barbara Lockmondy



Randall Dawkins, Jr.
Mr. Robert Parker



Kristopher Evans
Ms. Kristen Mathisen



Sarah Felter
Mr. Marston Mundi



James Flannery III
Mr. Jeff Smenyak



Caroline Hamann
Mr. Marvin Allison



Troy Hill
Ms. Jill Mangold



Timothy Juchcinski
Mr. William Dordnar



Rachel Kanick
Mr. Yan Wolfman



Danielle Leimback
Ms. Michelle Vuko



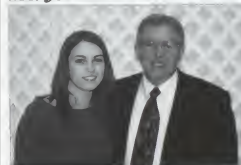
*Samantha McInts
Ms. Della Hutton*



*Margaret Miloy
Mr. Jon Soliday*



*David Montgomery JJJ
Mr. Joshua Cavan*



*Nicole Nelson
Mr. Joe Martinez*



*Bryan Norhus
Ms. Marilyn Deavers*



*Sara Olson
Ms. Roberta Jocius*



*Svetlana Pchovic
Mr. Richard Kretz*



*Emily Pruim
Mr. Dave Mastey*



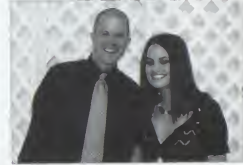
*Nathan Reynolds
Mr. John Tles*



*Erik Rhein
Ms. Gerri Kotyuk*



*Alexandra Stewart
Ms. Kathy Kotyuk*



*Samantha Tampier
Mr. Robert Kania*



*Eric Tharp
Mr. Dan McCoy*



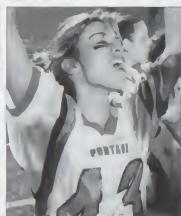
*Robert Troup
Mr. William Schott*



*Ashley Urbanch
Ms. Donna Yaksic*

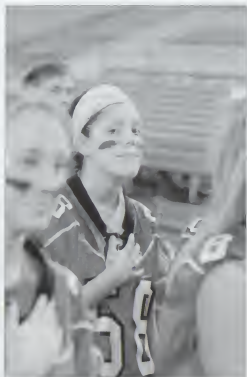
Powderpuff Football



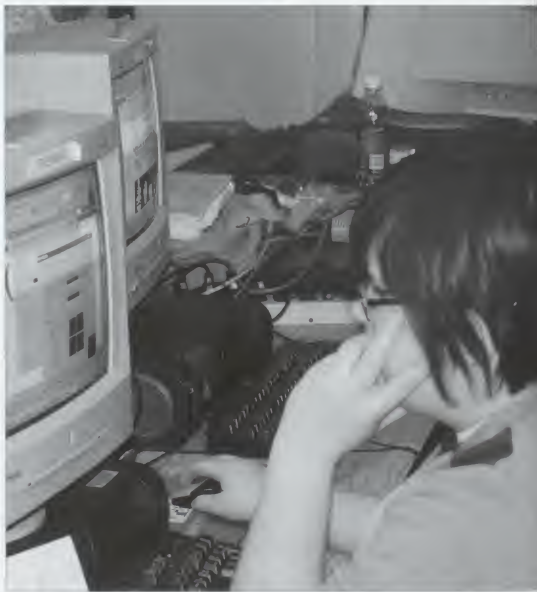
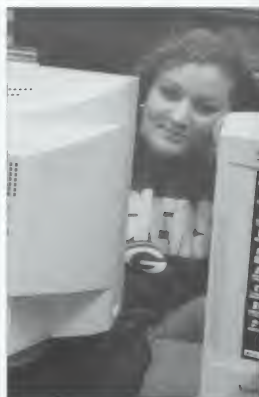


Powderpuff Football





*PHS Pow Wow
brings the
student body all
the news fit to
print*



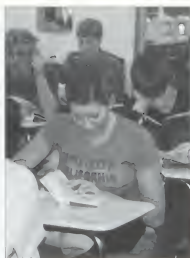


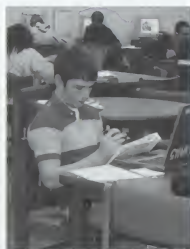




*Construction
Technology
builds the
future*











Thespians put on a good show for all to see

Corinne Castillo

Ever wonder who puts together the wonderful plays that we are able to watch here at Portage High School? It is the Thespians who are responsible for putting on our school's productions.

The Thespians are the theater club here at PHS. Some thespians act in the school plays while others work behind the scenes. Thespians are in charge of putting on the fall play, the spring musical, the variety show, air band, and they help with OYM and Junior Miss.

Activities that the Thespians participate in are putting on the school's productions, going to see a professional production, and having parties throughout the year. Mr. Joe Stevens, Thespians' sponsor for twenty years, takes the senior Thespians on a senior trip every year. Becoming a member of Thespians

has some prerequisites before a person can join. In order to become a member of the Thespians a person has to attend all the meetings, work at least three shows, and continue to be involved in the programs that our school presents.

Every year the Thespians have a banquet. The banquet is the club's award program where students are honored for their acting and their work behind the scenes. Scholarships are also awarded to some of the students for their outstanding work.

This year the fall play that the Thespians put on was *Inherit the Wind*. The thespians received help from Mr. Patrick Moody, who directed the play.

The spring musical this year was *My Fair Lady*, directed by Mr. William Bodnar.

The co-presidents of the club are Eric Ruiz and Ali Stewart.



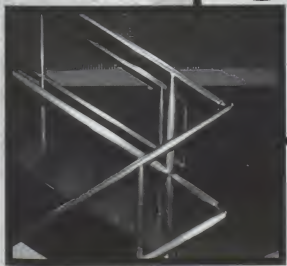








Sports



Girls connect on the field

The girls' soccer team has done a fantastic job this season.

For two months, these girls have been practicing and training hard and they have found success. They have also welcomed a new face to the field. The girls have accepted Maria Arrieda, a foreign exchange student from Spain, as one of their own.

When asked about her most memorable event of the season she said it was on the first day. "The girls

welcomed me with so much affection."

It also takes a lot of teamwork, although some drama did reveal itself the girls kept a positive attitude and played their hearts out.

Another important aspect in soccer is connecting. Elizabeth Ramirez, a sophomore on the varsity team, says, "I think connecting on and off the field is very important because the more you know each other the better you will play as a whole." The rest of the team

wholeheartedly agrees on this concept also.

No matter whether you win or lose it is how you play the game, and these girls have certainly proved this point. A win can make you feel like one hundred bucks and the team celebrates together. Losing can sometimes bring you down, the girls share their grief together and become stronger together to win their next game.

While struggling to keep the ball away from her opponents, sophomore Elizabeth Ramirez runs with it. Ramirez, who is on the varsity team has played soccer both freshman and sophomore years.





On senior night, senior Rachael Ramirez stands with her parents to receive her gift for time spent on the soccer team. Ramirez has been playing soccer for a large part of her life.

While watching her opponents out of the corner of her eye, sophomore Tasha Sever kicks the ball. Stiff penalties exist for anyone other than the goalie if the player uses her hands to manipulate the ball.

Girls Soccer

Allison Cruise, Megan Rodriguez, Anyssa Pacheco, Natalie Vahary, Samantha Labno, Sara Olson, Angela Mills, Liz Ramirez, Stacey Levas, Samantha Rodriguez, Casey Bryan, Alicia Mendoza, Alicia Vega, Caroline Hamann, Natalie Hoyoado, Ashley Carrs, Tasha Sever, Rachael Ramirez, Bri Cordon, Hailey Holland, Ashleigh Janiga, Amanda Pacheco, Lindsay Shay, Crystal Keliman, Kelly Stanley, Morgyn Graber, Fawn Wright, Tiffany Davies, Josie Santos, Carmyn Levenitt

Girls Varsity Soccer

Date	H/A	Opponent	Up-Them
8/23	H	Crown Point High School	3 4
8/25	H	Munster High School	2 0
8/27	H	Highland High School	1 1
8/30	A	Lake Central High School	1 2
9/6	A	Michigan City High School	6 0
9/8	A	South Bend St. Joseph's	1 2
9/10	H	Concord High School	2 1
9/13	H	LaPorte High School	3 0
9/20	H	Chesterton High School	3 4
9/27	A	Valparaiso High School	4 6
9/29	A	Mishawaka Marian	1 5
10/1	H	West Lafayette	1 0
10/4	A	Merrillville High School	6 1
10/6	A	Hobart High School	1 1
10/11	A	Sectional vs. Chesterton	1 2

Girls JV Soccer

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/23	H	Crown Point	0 0
8/25	H	Munster High School	0 0
8/27	H	Highland High School	1 0
8/30	A	Lake Central High School	1 4
9/6	A	Michigan City High School	4 0
9/8	A	South Bend St. Joseph's	0 2
9/10	H	Concord High School	5 0
9/13	H	LaPorte High School	3 0
9/20	H	Chesterton High School	1 1
9/27	A	Valparaiso High School	0 3
9/29	A	Mishawaka Marian	0 3
10/1	H	West Lafayette	3 0
10/4	A	Merrillville High School	3 0
10/6	A	Hobart High School	3 1

Coaching Staff:

Head Coach: Aimee Rhame

Assistants: Leslie Kretz, Aaron Rhame

Boys Soccer



2005 Season
Head Coach: A.J. Monroe
Assistant Coaches: Todd Strom, Jesse Mendez
Varsity Team:
A. Monroe, B. Safford, C. Safford, D. Safford, E. Safford, F. Safford, G. Safford, H. Safford, I. Safford, J. Safford, K. Safford, L. Safford, M. Safford, N. Safford, O. Safford, P. Safford, Q. Safford, R. Safford, S. Safford, T. Safford, U. Safford, V. Safford, W. Safford, X. Safford, Y. Safford, Z. Safford
Junior Varsity Team:
A. Monroe, B. Safford, C. Safford, D. Safford, E. Safford, F. Safford, G. Safford, H. Safford, I. Safford, J. Safford, K. Safford, L. Safford, M. Safford, N. Safford, O. Safford, P. Safford, Q. Safford, R. Safford, S. Safford, T. Safford, U. Safford, V. Safford, W. Safford, X. Safford, Y. Safford, Z. Safford

Varsity

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/13	A	Andean Jamboree	3-1
8/15	H	Munster	2-0
8/17	H	South Bend St. Joseph's	2-0
8/20	A	South Bend Adams	2-1
8/24	A	Crown Point	4-2
8/27	A	Andean	0-1
8/31	H	Lake Central	0-1
9/3	A	Lafayette Jeff	1-0
9/7	H	Michigan City	8-3
9/10	A	Hobart	0-2
9/14	A	Lafayette	2-0
9/17	A	Lagansport	0-1
9/21	A	Chesterton	1-0
9/24	A	Highland	2-0
10/3	H	Valparaiso	1-2
10/11	A	Culver	2-0
10/15	H	Herrerville	0-1
10/12	A	Sectional @ Wheeler	9-0
10/15	A	Sectional @ Wheeler	1-2

Junior Varsity

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/15	H	Munster	1-0
8/17	H	South Bend St. Joseph's	2-0
8/20	A	South Bend Adams	4-2
8/24	A	Crown Point	4-1
8/27	A	Andean	2-0
8/31	H	Lake Central	0-0
9/3	A	Lafayette Jeff	2-0
9/7	H	Michigan City	0-0
9/10	A	Hobart	6-0
9/14	A	Lafayette	2-1
9/17	A	Lagansport	2-1
9/21	A	Chesterton	1-0
9/24	A	Highland	5-0
9/28	H	Valparaiso	1-3
10/1	A	Culver	1-1
10/15	H	Herrerville	0-0

Coaching Staff:
A.J. Monroe
Todd Strom
Jesse Mendez

Astroturf Brings Boys Home to a Winning Season

Concluding their season with an impressive finish of thirteenth in state, the boys soccer team ended their year with a close, disappointing defeat against Chesterton in the second round of sectionals.

Despite the loss early into sectionals the team's regular season standings were remarkable. Varsity ended their season with a record of (11-3-2); likewise Junior Varsity ended their season with a prevailing record of (11-1-4).

Beginning their year in the latter part of the summer Head Coach A.J. Monroe and assistant coaches Todd Strom and Jesse Mendez began holding practices in order to train the team for the challenging schedule that lie before them. Once the school year commenced practices were held Monday through Friday throughout the remainder of the season.

As a result of the new Astroturf that was added to the football field towards the end of the prior school year the boys were able to have their first actual home game. The team was able to open their season for the first time on the Portage High School field, opposed to playing at Willowcreek Middle School as teams in the past have.

After preparing for their opening game against Munster the boys were able to overcome the mustangs with a victory of three to one. A This began snowball effect aiding the Varsity team in winning their first four games in a row and the Junior Varsity's first five.

The first disappointment of the season was obtained until the latter part of August when the Varsity team faced Andean. Ending the game with a tie the boys got ready to bounce back in their upcoming game against Lake Central. Unfortunately the boys were disappointed with a loss of zero to one.

Soon after the team quickly

began to gain momentum, the boys were able to pull through and establish a seven game winning streak. This continued for weeks until finally the junior varsity team lost to Valparaiso on September 28th.

The team was not only successful on the field but also off. Due to the amount of time the boys spent with each other life long friendships were formed and strengthened, which only aided the already triumphant team.

"I would have to say out of all the members on the team I was closest with Radley Alcantara. After being on a team with Radley for many years I have noticed he always has a positive attitude, which is a very rare thing to have in many situations. He cracks me up with him there is never a dull moment," explains senior Aaron Lopez.

With high hopes the boys finished out the remainder of the season with an extremely impressive outcome. Varsity then readied themselves for the first round of sectionals in which they faced Hebron at Wheeler.

Within the first twenty-nine seconds of the game Michael Disney pulled threw for the team with the opening goal of the game. Not long after Raphael Martinez was able to score three goals in a row within the next eight minutes.

Coach Monroe was then able to rest his starters after the first five goals of the game. By the end of the half the Indians had scored a total of seven goals giving them the confidence needed to face Chesterton on the following Saturday.

After defeating Chesterton earlier on into the season the boys went into the game level headed and ready to play. Towards the end of the first half the team pulled ahead of Chesterton scoring the first goal of the game. As the game proceeded the trojans closed the gap by scoring and tying up the game. Determined the boys continued to fight, just as it looked as though the game would be taken into overtime Chesterton scored within the last thirty-seven seconds of the game. Though the score may not have reflected the result the team had planned it was undeniable that these boys had nothing short of an amazing season.

In an attempt to achieve control, junior David Gutierrez stops the ball in order to take it down the field. Gutierrez played the position of midfield for the varsity team this season.





In an attempt to steal, sophomore Dino Bernardi traps the ball to gain possession from his opponent. The team went on to defeat Hebron with a score of nine to zero in the first round of sectionals.

Deep in thought, sophomore Michael Disney intently watches his teammates as he awaits his chance to return to the field. In order to stay in shape during the off season Disney plays in another league to prepare for the upcoming season.



After a throw in senior Kris Evans backs into his opponent in a fight for the ball. Evans heads the ball to regain control and eventually pass it off to his teammate later on into the play. Later in the year Evans participates as a member of the basketball team.



In a race for the ball senior Jared Engel sprints down the field too quickly for the opposing team to close in on him. The addition of the astroturf to the field allowed the team to finally participate in a game on their home field.

Girls Cross Country

LEIGH BAILEY, PAMELA
NEARSS, CHRISTOPHER
BLACKWELL, WHITNEY
DOMMAN, THERESA
CALJAU, TIFFANY CALJAU,
MICHELLE CASTREJON,
GRACE COLEMAN, SOPHIE
COLEMAN, ANDREA FALK,
COURTNEY GLOS, TAYLOR
HAKO, KATIE HARGARTEN,
NICOLE HUDSON, VALERIE
MIHAL, MELINDA MISCH,
KRISTEN MYERS, JACKIE
PAGAN, ANNA REMIG,
EMILY ROBBINS, LISA
SAMPLAWSKI, JESSICA
SOBOCINSKI, LEAH
TAYLOR, HEATHER
WILLIAMSON, JENNIFER
YORK

Coaching Staff:
CHUCK HEIMBERG
JAY WHITE

The girls work hard to finish the race in good placing as sophomore Melinda Misch and sophomore Michelle Castrejon advance on the finish line. The girls communicate on the course to push each other to finish their races in good standing.

Exhaustion can be seen on the faces of (left to right) junior Theresa Calaug and sophomore Melinda Misch as they push themselves to finish the race. Normally, races are two and a half miles long, a lengthy obstacle for any runner.



The beginning of the race sees the girls relatively close together. As the race goes on, more space comes between the girls as their natural abilities dictate their position. Despite this space, the girls try their best to communicate with each other on the course.



The team stands together while lining up for their race at the Duneland Athletic Conference meet at Lake Central. From the very beginning of the race, the girls stay together and continue to work with each other during the race to attain victory.

Connections help girls attain successful season

CULP - To the untrained eye, one would think that cross country is an every-man-for-himself type sport. On the contrary, the girls must connect with each other both on and off the course to be successful in their meets. They must communicate on the course during their races to be successful.

"We try to race together and talk to each other," senior Kristen Myers says. "When someone falls back the team works together to try to keep them with the group."

This idea spreads throughout the team. Senior Leah Taylor mentions that, even though it is at times difficult, communication is the key when running in a race.

"I encourage my teammates to run alongside of me if they are slowing down or if I am passing them," Taylor says. "I try to communicate with them, but sometimes it is difficult."

Off the course, the girls keep this closeness in, as Head Coach Charles Heimberg puts it, "a bond of shared sacrifice."

"We are all pretty close with each other," junior Tiffany Caluag says. "We always have to watch out for each other and make sure we are not getting ourselves into any trouble that would bring our team down."

With the end of each season comes the end of the high school career of the senior runners due to their inevitable graduation. One runner ending her high

school career is senior Christina Blackwell. Even though she has fallen victim to several injuries, she finishes her career as the fourth fastest Portage Cross Country runner ever.

"I've had a lot of things holding me back over the years," Blackwell says of her injuries. "I've had knee and back injuries that have held me back a lot."

Of the four years Blackwell has been running cross country in Portage, she has been to state three times - once on her own and twice with the rest of her team. She is all state, all conference, and a member of the Hall of Fame. She has been named the Most Valuable Player all four years and her personal best record (14:44) is among the top times in Portage cross-country history. Blackwell has been offered a scholarship and plans on continuing her cross-country career next year.

"Just imagine how much better I would have been if I wasn't injured all the time," she says.

The 2005 season ended in success with a five-win, two-loss record. Wins include the Hammond Gavit Invitational and the Lafayette Harrison Invitational. The team placed second in the sectionals and returned to the state finals this year, finishing in thirteenth.

With hard work, communication, and retaining connections with each other, the girls of the 2005-2006 girls cross-country team attained a successful season.



From around the curve, senior Leah Taylor leads her opponent. Junior Kathleen Hargarten trails not far in the background. During races, the girls try their hardest to stay near each other to make communication easier.

WHAT CONNECTIONS DO YOU SHARE

Christina Blackwell

The girls are like my sisters and we all have a good connection together, which is great because we need a team like that. I could not ask for a better team!

Senior

WITH YOUR TEAMMATES?

How do you connect

Drandon Campbell



We connect well with each other. We are like brothers and we get along well. We all connect whenever we talk about running or when we go on a long run.

Senior

Stephan Bain



I connect with my teammates by being a good leader and helping everyone to do their best when we run at meets. I enjoy connecting with my teammates.

Junior

with your teammates?

With the look of determination on his face, senior Jeremy Davies runs at a good pace for his team. Determination is key when trying to win for the team. If he keeps up the good work, Portage will come out on top.

The extensive run to the finish is almost at an end as senior Jake Ahlborn passes the crowd and approaches the finish line. He has worked very hard this season to win for his team. Hard work and effort are important when building a strong team.



As they make the turn, senior Jacob Ahlborn and junior Mark Fischer creep up behind their opponent. Keeping up at this speedy pace will help them pass their opponent and also help them make it to the finish line.

The crowd watches on as junior Max Mulvihill runs right past. He is very focused and that is important when trying to win. The finish line is right up ahead and with much effort put forth, he will cross the line and add a victory for the Portage team.



Boys Cross Country

Jake Ahlborn, Steve Bain, Corey Bingham, Jared Blafors, Brandon Campbell, Jeremy Davies, Joe Efantis, Mark Fischer, Jim Flannery, Josh Hart, Sean Kennedy, Ben Kerezman, Brian Kim, Kyle Lamping, Chris Lehmann, David Longfellow, Max Mulvihill, Matt Myers, Nathaniel Pall, Myles Tolliver, Adam Walters, Matt Walters

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/27	A	Penh Hokem Karum	2nd place
9/3	A	Lafayette Harrison	6th place
9/6	H	Lafayette High School	20 35
9/10	A	Carmel Invite	4th place
9/13	A	Mich City	15 43
		Valpo	43 20
9/17	A	New Prairie Invite	8th place
9/20	A	Merrillville	17 40
9/24	A	Lake Central	20 36
9/27	A	Culver Invite	11th place
		Chesterton	26 35
		Crown Point	24 30
10/1	A	DAC Meet @ L. Central	1st place
10/11	A	Sec11 @ Sunset Hills	2nd place
10/15	A	Reg1 @ N. Prairie	3rd place
10/22	A	Semi-State @ N. Prairie	3rd place
10/29	A	State Meet @ IU	11th place

Head Coach: Jeff Smenyak

Assistant: Al Mussman



Boys Cross Run to Victory

PIERS AND CULP - Cross country boys made it to sectionals this year making it a sport on everyone's lips. They ended the season with a strong record.

The success of the team was not due to simply talent alone. The boys had to work hard with each other to achieve this accomplishment.

Before every meet they come together to eat a pasta dinner, ensuring plenty of carbohydrates to fuel themselves as they run.

The team had a great start. In the

middle of the season they were ranked third, though by the end of the season they had fallen one spot to fourth.

To achieve such a high rank requires a lot of practice.

"During the summer we practice at eight a.m. at Willowcreek Middle School every week day," said sophomore Nathaniel Pall.

Being with the team everyday causes the boys build a trust with each other.

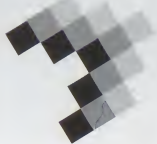
"Believing in myself," was the response from Pall when asked what he learned from being on the team. The

team does carry a very positive environment, even if someone does not come through for the team.

"Yeah, our meet went okay. We didn't get to do the relay because one of the guys didn't show up. I hope he's okay," stated senior Brandon Campbell to fellow teammate senior Benjamin Kerezman.

The team is very close due to many long and hard practices. From their experience, they have all learned skills that will be useful throughout their lives.

While at Portage High School as part of the foreign exchange student program, junior Phillip Heckhausen takes advantage of the opportunity to run on the cross country team. Heckhausen came to the United States of America from Germany.



Girls hit the putt when it counts

Starting at the end of July and ending at the end of September, the girls' golf team pulled off a miraculous season this year, breaking the girls' golf 18 hole school record of 356 and they shot a 345.

Not only did they get to be on a team with other girls' who enjoy the sport, they also made a lot of friendships. When asked if they felt like they were becoming closer with the girls on the team, several of them responded with a definite yes. They also said that they hung out with each other outside of school by going shopping and out to eat.

A few of them stated that they were

friends with some of the girls before the season began. Kaylan Knutsen said that she knew a few people before the season and she met them through dance, school, people, etc.

Most of them have played golf before this season by taking lessons. When they started playing in previous years they found out golf was fun, which made them decide to tryout for the golf team.

When asked, what do you feel was your best game this season and why do you feel it was your best game, CeCe Martinez responded with, "My best match occurred at the Kankakee Valley Invite at Hazelden. I was paring hole after hole and it just felt good."

The girls' have golf balls with the PHS Indian logo and their team slogan, which is "Just Tap It." CeCe Martinez also said that these were the golf balls that brought her good luck this year.

They also had a team song that brought them luck, however, the name of the song can't be disclosed to people outside of the team.

Before every game they listened to their team song and they had a pep talk and chant.

Everything that they used for good luck must have worked because they had an overall excellent season.



Emily Tolliver practices by herself at Robinhurst Country Club. She is trying to read the green so her putt will be in the hole in only one stroke.



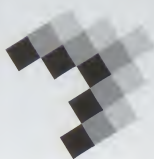
Walking back to her golf bag with pride in her shot, this golfer smiles for the camera.

Girls Golf

Elizabeth Broadie, Jessica O'Brien, Aayen Knutsen, CeCe Martinez, Shelby Milner, Javyn Rocha, Lauren Ruzga, Lauren Scott, Nicole Seefeldt, Christina Stewart, Carolyn Tackett, Emily Tolliver, Lisa Whitworth, Lauren Wighamsen, Natalie Zulkowski, Stephanie Zulkowski, Kaitlyn Ellis, Colleen Moran, Christine Hernandez

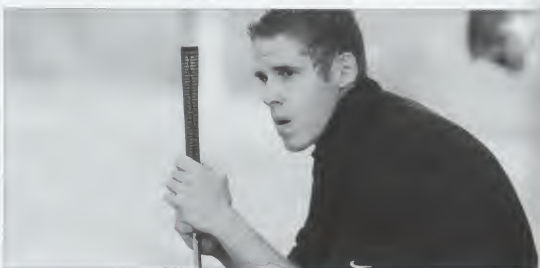
Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/23	A	Michigan City High School	193 231
8/25	H	Chesterton High School	187 162
8/26	H	Hobart/w Hanover Cent	165 206
			229
8/30	H	Merrillville High School	180 272
9/1	A	Lake Central High School	208 196
9/6	H	Valparaiso High School	206 161
9/8	H	Crown Point High School	193 186
9/9	A	LaPorte Invite	—
9/12	A	Lowell/Wheeler	192 205
			220
9/13	A	LaPorte High School	194 167

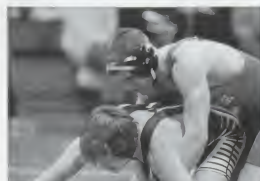
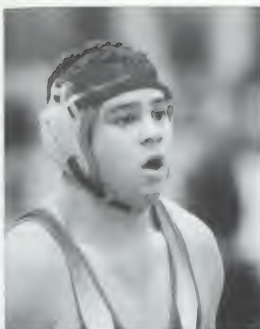
Coach: Cornelia Cole



Nicole Seefeldt carrying her golf bag around before her match. Some golfers keep not only their clubs in their golf bags, but good luck charms and superstitious items for luck

Holding and removing the tee for the other golfers in your group is considered good golfing etiquette. Golf has plenty of etiquette rules that golfers must follow.





Ready for the ball to come down, Sophomore Gloria Hernandez sets herself for a possible bump or set. Gloria Hernandez has been playing volleyball since middle school. With her determination, the team may do great in the coming years.



Varsity players Rachel Paczolt and Colleen Scott are in motion to retrieve and bump or set the ball. Rachel Paczolt is a Junior. Scott is a senior and will be playing her final year at Portage. Scott had 60 total blocks with 11 block kills during the 2005 season.

As the game stops by time out, the team forms a huddle possibly raise their spirits or get a play setup. The team shows connection here by everyone getting together. This is needed in any sport, the team as a whole getting pumped up together.



Number 19
freshman Megan
Hulse, just set the
bump for the play to
be made. Megan
Hulse only being in
her first year in
Portage will hopefully
play more years to
come. She shows
great potential and
would be a great help
to the volleyball team.

Sports headlines goe here and here and here and

Upon entering the 2005 volleyball season there was a lot of hope for the team. During the course of the season, the team had to make a few connections in order to play effectively. While setting up a bump or spike, one must connect with a teammate to properly score a point.

When asked what types of connections were made in the sport of volleyball, Coach Kramer had this to say, "Skills are connected so that they can be executed without much fore thought," she explains. "The girls are connected mentally to make the best plays, looking for the weak spots of the other teams so as to gain advantage and they are connected by communicating on the court."

Obviously this was evident with the way the girl's team had played. They worked as a team and it paid off in the end. Each and every game showed the skill they all possessed by playing with intensity.

Volleyball is a sport that definitely needs teamwork. And with teamwork comes connecting. We can see many examples of the volleyball team using connections to play and possibly defeat each opponent they face. It's a

very big part of the game being played. As said earlier, when performing a bump, set, or spike they need to connect with each other to do each move precisely?

When I asked senior volleyball player, Danielle Leimbach, how she felt her team acted when they lost to a team she said this, "I would say our team had a good attitude considering some of the circumstances we had to go through." How true that is! The team had gone through many battles, but they never let a bad attitude get in their way. They showed great poise and a great attitude, which inevitably showed the best kind of side of them.

All in all, the team did a great job, no matter what the statistics show. They may not have had a winning season, but the effort that each and every player put into the game was what any team needs. They never let a win get to them, but they came out the next time with more fire and even more ready then before. That shows just how much of a team they really are. We know that if the team keeps up the attitude they have, they'll come back and do better then ever.

Girls Volleyball

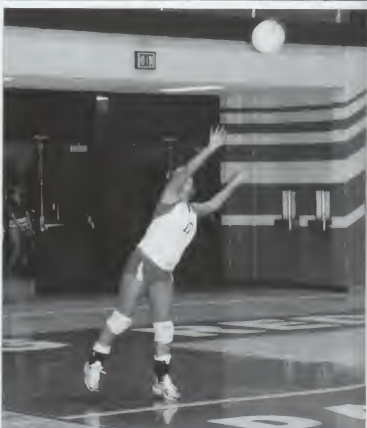
Katie Hojnacki, Rachel Paczolt, Colleen Scott, Gloria Hernandez, Kelly Schoon, Lauren Pirovski, Danielle Leimbach, Annalisha Turner, Kari Nugent, Leighann Smith, Hannah Lindstrom, Ashley Thompson, Megan Jericha, Brittney Koebcke, Rachel Paczolt, Amanda Leimbach, Alyssa Mayerik, Amy Czupryn, Kacey Kornacki, Kristin Helmeck, Brianna Coppinger, Holly Percifield

Date	2005	Opponent	Score	Result
8/16	W	Hudson High School	25-15	W
8/18	W	Hammonts Motion	25-15	W
8/19	A	Boone Grove	25-19	W
8/25	A	Chesham High School	25-15	W
8/30	H	Valerius High School	25-15	W
9/1	A	Lafayette High School	25-15	W
9/6	A	Lake Central High School	25-15	W
9/8	H	Wichigan City High School	25-15	W
9/10	A	Crown Point High School	25-15	W
9/15	H	Hartsville High School	25-15	W
9/19	A	Highland High School	25-15	W
9/20	H	Chesham High School	25-15	W
9/22	A	Valerius High School	25-15	W
9/26	A	Lafayette High School	25-15	W
9/27	H	Lake Central High School	25-15	W
10/4	A	Wichigan City High School	25-15	W
10/6	H	Crown Point High School	25-15	W
10/11	A	Hartsville High School	25-15	W

Coaching Staff:
Christine Dixon, Varsity
Kristin King
Sylvia Kramer
Jennifer Kramer

JV Volleyball

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us	Them
8/15	H	Andean High School	25	23
8/16	H	Hobart High School	25	24
			25	5
8/18	H	Hammond Morton	25	7
			25	19
8/24	A	Boone Grove High School	25	10
8/25	A	Chesterton High School	14	25
			21	25
8/30	H	Valparaiso High School	18	25
			14	25
9/1	A	LaPorte High School	11	25
			22	25
9/3	A	Logansport VAR Tmy	25	22
9/6	A	Lake Central High School	25	17
9/8	H	Michigan City High School	25	21
			14	25
			15	14
9/13	A	Crown Point High School	13	25
			25	14
9/15	H	Merrillville High School	18	25
			15	14
			15	10
9/19	A	Highland High School	15	25
			25	14
			14	15
9/22	A	Valparaiso High School	17	25
			11	25
9/26	A	Lowell High School	25	22
			25	17
9/27	H	LaPorte High School	13	25
			15	25
9/29	H	Lake Central High School	16	25
			25	22
			4	15
10/4	A	Michigan City High School	29	25
			25	14
			15	7
10/6	H	Crown Point High School	20	25
			25	19
			11	15
10/11	A	Merrillville High School	25	21
			16	25
			15	3





Fresh Volleyball

Date	H/A	Opponent	U's	Them
8/24	A	Boone Grove High School	25	16
			25	19
8/25	A	Chesterton High School	24	25
			13	25
8/30	H	Valparaiso High School	10	25
			25	21
			15	12
9/1	A	LaPorte High School	14	25
			22	25
9/6	A	Lake Central High School	12	25
			22	25
9/8	H	Michigan City High School	10	25
			25	23
9/13	A	Crown Point High School	25	25
			15	14
			18	25
9/15	H	Merrillville High School	24	25
			25	19
9/22	A	Valparaiso High School	15	4
			25	24
			12	25
			13	15
9/26	A	Lowell High School	25	12
			25	17
9/27	H	LaPorte High School	18	25
			25	21
			10	15
9/28	H	Munster High School	25	24
9/29	H	Lake Central High School	25	19
			15	25
			15	11
10/4	A	Michigan City High School	16	25
			25	16
			15	14
10/6	H	Crown Point High School	25	23
			25	24
10/11	A	Merrillville High School	24	25
			25	11
			15	11



Fighting through the season

REDDEN The new turf brought hope and excitement for the new season of football. Unfortunately, the season did not turn out as well as everyone hoped for. The varsity record was 2-8 finishing the season losing to Chesterton in the first round of sectionals. The season however was not a complete loss, many games were extremely close to the point where the last second on the clock could determine which team won the game. "It is a lot harder to lose a close game than to lose by a blowout," stated senior Nathan Smith.

On October 14, Portage took on Laporte playing quite possibly the best game of the season. Quarterback Erik Rhein threw 503 yards and 5 touchdowns while William Doll, Shane Dixon, and Luke Manoski all had over 120 yards receiving. Even with these amazing numbers portage trailed behind Laporte by one touchdown making the score 49-42. Rhein was named offense player of the week after that game.

"It was nice being recognized as player of the week but the team as a whole played really well in that game," said senior Erik Rhein.

The football games bring an immense amount of fans every Friday night no matter the outcome of the game. The stands always have friends, family, and members of the community there to show support and have a good time.

"The stands are usually full,

surprisingly even at the way games, I have gone to all the games this year with my friends and with so many people there it makes the games a lot fun because everyone can cheer on the guys and have fun," senior Katherine Batista stated.

The members of the team were very close. Most have been friends since youth, meeting in sports or at school. Every Thursday night parents made spaghetti dinners for home games and for away games the dads of the team would cook out for them. Many of the players even went out to eat together on Wednesday nights.

"When you spend so much time together practicing and playing games you just become good friends with the guys on the team and that is what we did," explained senior Eric Tharp.

Many of the seniors were sad to see the football season come to an end simply because their closets friends are on the team and it would be the last time they would have the opportunity to play all together.

"It was a little strange and sad turning in my uniforms it was the first time I realized it was really over. Out of everything I'm going to miss my friends on the team," Smith said.

Even though the seasons did not turn out to be a huge success the players did form a camaraderie that they will remember beyond this year.



As the ball flies through the air, junior, Steven Juszcak reaches up in attempt to catch it. Unfortunately, Juszcak was injured during the season but, still attended games to show support for his teammates and all of his friends.

Crouched down prepared to start the next play the boys lineup in their position on the new turf. The turf brought out many people to observe the new improvement to the school.



On top of the tackle is junior, Anthony Bohling. Bohling plays on the offensive line for the team. Also in the tackle is senior, Philip Wright and junior, Paul Rio who are also offensive linemen.

At the front of the pack is coach Buzea leading the offensive linemen onto the field. This year coach Buzea coached his hundredth winning game.

Nathan Smith senior



Greatest Athletic Achievement:

My greatest athletic achievement would be, receiving fourth place in shot put at state my junior year.

Greatest Academic Achievement:

My greatest academic achievement would have to be, having a B in calculus.



Football



LA PORTE FOOTBALL TEAM
Head Coach: Craig Buzea
Assistant Coach: Dan McCoy
Team Captain: Nathan Smith
Team Manager: Rob Kania
Team Colors: Red, White, and Black
Team Mascot: The Fighting Irish
Team Anthem: The Star-Spangled Banner
Team Prayer: God bless our country, God bless our team, God bless our players, God bless our coaches, God bless our fans, God bless our school, God bless our community, God bless our state, God bless our nation, God bless our world, God bless our universe, God bless our everything.

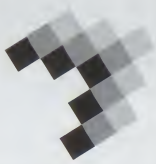
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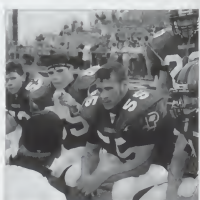
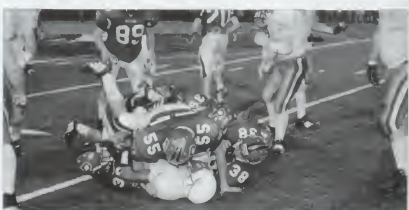
Date	H/A	Opponent	Us - Them
8/12	H	Munster (Scrimmage)	
8/19	A	South Bend Washington	34 0
8/26	H	South Bend St. Joseph's	12 21
9/2	A	Lake Central High School	33 10
9/9	A	Merrillville High School	13 15
9/16	H	Crown Point High School	21 31
9/23	H	Chesterton High School	14 28
9/30	A	Michigan City High School	14 23
10/7	H	Valparaiso High School	7 21
10/14	A	LaPorte High School	42 49
10/21	A	Sec-Chesterton	28 49

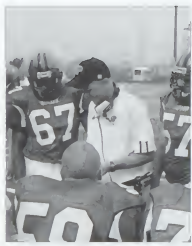
Coaching Staff:
Craig Buzea-Head Coach
Dan McCoy
Steve Livingston
David Ortiz
Rob Kania
Nick Wellman

Between a play the offensive linemen gather around to listen to the coach for instructions on what to do in order to untie the score they had against LaPorte. The team played a strong game but, ended up losing in the last quarter by one touchdown.

Long time best friends seniors, Shane Dixon and Enk Rhein stand side by side watching the game being played. An important part of being on a team is showing your support for all of the teammates.







Football

JV Football

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/27	A	South Bend St. Joseph's	14 21
9/17	A	Crown Point High School	6 12
10/1	H	Michigan City High School	28
10/15	H	LaPorte High School	21 22

Fr. Football

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
8/25	A	South Bend Washington	14 0
9/1	H	South Bend St. Joseph	12 0
9/8	A	Lake Central High School	26 14
9/22	H	Crown Point High School	6 22
9/29	H	Chesterton High School	14 8
10/6	A	Michigan City High School	30
10/13	H	Valparaiso High School	14 0
10/19	A	LaPorte High School	28 6

Coaching Staff:
 Craig Busea-Head Coach
 Dan McCoy
 Steve Livingston
 David Ortiz
 Rob Kania
 Nick Wellman



Girls Varsity/ TV and Freshman Basketball

Felicia Williamson, Brittany Buzea, Tiffany Keil, Ashley Thompson, Alyssa Mayerik, Kacey Kornacki, Gloria Hernandez, Lisa Samplawski, Cassi Dessauer, Stacy Levack, Hannah Pajor, Felicia Williamson, Heather Williamson, Tiffany Keil, Alyssa Mayerik, Alex Rodriguez, Andrea Falk, Kayla Criswell, Courtney Glos, Cassi Dessauer, Kayte Hawkins, Amy Czupryn, Hannah Pajor

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/5	H	Helbron Scrimmage	41 59
11/12	A	Penn Classic	35 46
11/18	A	Crown Point	21 60
11/19	A	Highland	35 46
11/25	H	Merrillville	49 65
11/29	H	Hobart	46 33
12/2	A	Michigan City	50 80
12/9	H	Valparaiso	28 42
12/13	A	LaPorte	26 59
12/16	H	Chesterton	37 47
12/20	A	Gary West	64 30
12/28	H	Lake Central	27 57
1/5	H	Crown Point	25 50
1/7	A	Merrillville	28 59
1/13	A	Valparaiso	36 50
1/20	A	Chesterton	31 65
1/24	H	Michigan City	52 93
1/27	H	LaPorte	50 44
3/1	H	Munster	37 59
2/3	A	Lake Central	27 57
2/7	A	Sectional @ Valpo	47 51

Head Coach: Kristen Peterson
Varsity Assistant: Cristina Schmidt
JV: Marian Horazy
Freshman: Leslee Kretz & Carrie Biggs

The importance of the rebound can be seen as both freshman Hannah Pajor and sophomore Gloria Hernandez each reach for the ball. Communication on the court is an important key to working together in gaining a victory for the team.

Girls succeed despite losing season and injury

CULP - The 2005-2006 season for the girls basketball team was marred with injury and a losing record. The varsity team ended with a record of 4-17, the junior varsity with a record of 4-14, and the freshman team had a record of 3-6. Even though the girls had a tough season, their determination stayed in tact.

"The most important attribute a player must have is commitment," says Coach Kristen Peterson. "This team worked very hard, overcame a lot of adversity, and improved immensely."

The girls must not only have a commitment to the game, but also to each other. Every player is a member of the team because of their love and passion for the sport of basketball. The bond that the girls share on the team runs deeper than a mere mutual love for the sport, however. Most of the girls have played with each other for multiple years, with some beginning their careers together in seventh and eighth grade. These multiple years of playing together allows them to build up a trust between each other and help them to learn each other's moves.

"With the team we already have a crazy connection," explains sophomore Gloria Hernandez. "As we play together, we learn how each other moves and the way we think on the court. Our players can know what we are doing and where we are going to go."

Tragedy struck during a December 9

game against the Valparaiso Vikings. During the game, sophomore Lisa Samplawski broke her hand. During the game, Samplawski was playing defense when a member of the opposing team ran into her and injured her.

"Injuring myself was the worst thing that could have happened," Samplawski explains. She was not a stranger to injury, either, as she had earlier lost her whole cross country season due to a knee injury. What originally was supposed to be a six week injury ended up being extended to almost nine weeks. The wait made the anticipation for her return grow more and more.

"Coming back was amazing," Samplawski says. "I found out on Wednesday that I was finally released to play, and on Friday I played in the game against La Porte. Being able to play again was incredible, but winning the game was the actual icing on the cake."

Though the record was not the greatest the girls basketball team has had in their time, the connections made between the girls make the season worth it.

"We are a family," Hernandez says. "It is incredible how close that many strangers can relate."

The commitment to the game despite adversities, their hardwork, and their determination made the losing 2005-2006 season for the girls basketball team a success.

How does the team



Kayla Hunkeler

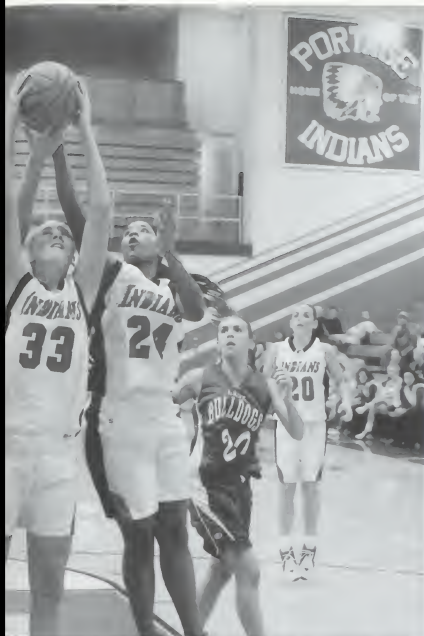
Our team would have good communication, and we would try to cheer each other up if one of us messed up. We were like a little family.

Freshman

Work Together

If you wish to be a basketball player, the ability to shoot free throws is an important one. Sophomore Alyssa Mayerik shows her ability here as she stands at the line. After the free throw, the team must work together in order to regain possession.





The physical aspect of the sport can be seen here as junior Kacey Kornacki falls to the ground in an attempt to gain possession of the ball. Sophomore Lisa Samplawski was another example of the physical aspect as she was injured for several games.



In the midst of a time-out, the freshman team takes the bench to receive much needed advice from Coach Leslee Kretz along with Assistant Coach Carrie Biggs, coached the freshman girls team to an season ending record of 2 wins and 7 losses.

The game can become intense for a player caught in the middle of a play. Freshman Tiffany Keel tries to catch the ball while opposing team members and teammate junior Kacey Kornacki try to gain possession of the ball as well.

Girls Varsity/ TV and Freshman Basketball

JV Girls Basketball

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/12	A	Penn Classic	22 45
11/18	A	Crown Point	21 28
11/19	A	Highland	22 50
11/25	H	Merrillville	23 41
11/29	H	Hobart	25 21
12/2	A	Michigan City	17 33
12/9	H	Valparaiso	23 40
12/13	A	LaPorte	26 38
12/16	H	Chesterton	25 37
12/20	A	Gary Wirt	45 8
12/28	H	Lake Central	12 46
1/5	H	Crown Point	24 44
1/7	A	Merrillville	16 24
1/13	A	Valparaiso	27 43
1/20	A	Chesterton	21 37
1/24	H	Michigan City	38 29
1/27	H	LaPorte	27 26
1/31	H	Munster	31 19
2/3	A	Lake Central	12 46

Freshmen Girls Basketball

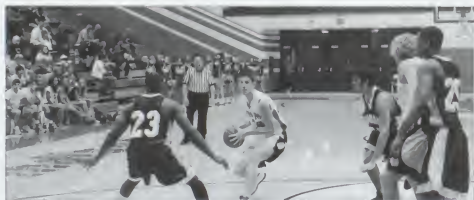
Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/10	H	Crown Point	13 27
11/15	H	Lake Central	26 34
11/17	A	Merrillville	29 16
11/22	H	Michigan City	25 32
11/29	A	Valparaiso	26 36
12/1	H	LaPorte	18 13
12/5	A	Chesterton	21 37
12/7	A	Highland	17 33
12/12	H	Hobart	19 28
12/15	A	Crown Point	15 36
1/5	H	Merrillville	29 21
1/9	H	Munster	22 29
1/10	A	Michigan City	24 32
1/12	H	Valparaiso	36 50
1/19	H	Chesterton	18 29





In midair, a varsity member attempts to take the ball from the Indians. Coordination, usage of fundamentals, and speed are all skills needed to be a good player. These particular skills are all worked on during practices.

As the team takes a seat on the bench they gather around the coach to receive direction on what to do next. A large part of being on a team is communication and working together, especially against a difficult team.



Ready to pass the ball, senior Andrew Repay looks for an open teammate to throw the ball to. Repay has been an important component of the team, being a senior often requires leadership.

In an attempt to steal the ball away from the opposing team a JV player jumps up in the air. The boys practice everyday to perfect their basketball skills. Basketball requires an immense amount of dedication in order to be good.



About to make a basket, senior Joshua Stanley reaches to put the ball in the hoop. Stanley has been playing basketball for many years and plans to continue his basketball career throughout his college years.

Ready to pass the other team senior Kristopher Evans runs readily with the ball down to the other end of the court to make a basket. Evans not only is a member of the basketball team but the soccer team as well.



Boys Basketball

Kris Evans, Josh Harmon, Reece Hussman, Lorenzo Green, Joey Cole, Albert Evans, Josh Stanley, A.J. Repay, Andrew Coban, Eric Kaman, Matt Walters, Josh Harmon, Kenny Evans, Josh Pradiad, D.J. Anderson, Andrew Coban, Andy Farmer, Sam Gonzalez, Clark Mussman, Sam Fazekas, Eric Spler

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us	Them
11/22	H	Kankakee Valley	73	51
11/25	A	Highland	45	65
12/2	H	Michigan City	52	57
12/9	A	Valparaiso	48	77
12/13	H	LaPorte	57	64
12/16	A	Chesterton	31	62
12/27	A	Lake Central	59	67
1/13	H	Valparaiso	39	74
1/14	A	Boone Grove	43	56
1/20	H	Chesterton	52	65
1/21	H	Hobart	53	59
1/27	A	LaPorte	56	79
1/28	A	Wheeler	43	57
2/3	H	Lake Central	59	55
2/9	A	Michigan City	40	51
2/14	H	Munster	40	70
2/17	A	Crown Point	52	51
2/24	H	Herrinville	57	77
2/28	A	Sectional @ Chesterton	51	56

Determination Pulls Team Through Season

The basketball teams alike have concentrated hard on the game. They put forth an immense amount of effort and pure determination. The freshman team ended the season with 6 wins and 14 losses, and the B team ending the season with 6 wins and 12 losses.

"The season had its ups and downs but the team made some positive steps to move forward for future team play," said Coach Kramer when asked about the team. Though the teams faced multiple problems, each team tried hard to stay focused and play their hardest.

The team did their best to represent the school and do well in every game. The tried to stay on top of things as players.

"They need those extra practices and hard work to go against the most difficult

team they have played this year," explained Kramer.

"Valparaiso was the most difficult to play physically and mentally. As our school rivals, it is always hard to get in the right frame of mind to play against a tough team like Valpo," concluded Kramer.

The freshman look to have a promising team in the future if they continue to work as hard as they did this year.

As far as the Varsity team went, the team had a very difficult season pulling everything together.

"In practice we focused a lot on drills and not much on scrimmaging, we had a lot of young guys on the team who had to establish their fundamentals through out the whole season," explained senior, A.J. Repay.

The varsity and JV team both excelled in team cooperation

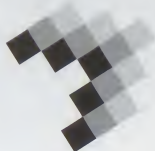
and the will not to give up.

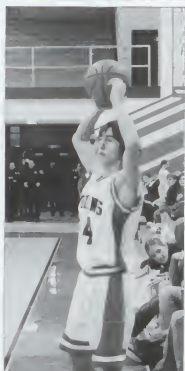
"A lot of things on the court, such as ball handling needed improvement, but through every bit of the adversity we all stayed together. We never blamed things on one another and we had a lot of support through the season," concluded Repay.

Though the season may not be one for the records it was a season where all involved learned lessons in team work, integrity, and perseverance.

Head Coach: Steve Bartos
Varsity Assistant: Dick Kretz
JV: Matt Welches

Freshman: Mike Kramer & Mike Liesch







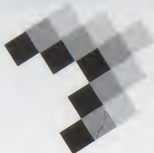
Boys Basketball

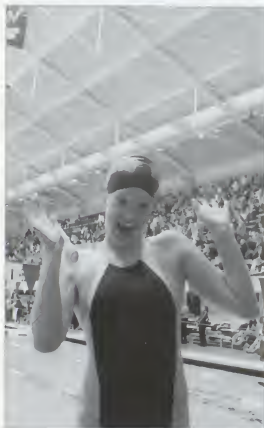
JV Basketball

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/22	H	Kankakee Valley	46 39
11/25	A	Highland	22 28
12/2	H	Michigan City	36 39
12/9	A	Valparaiso	19 41
12/13	H	LaPorte	31 52
12/16	A	Chesterton	34 47
12/27	A	Lake Central	12 32
1/13	H	Valparaiso	13 24
1/14	A	Boone Grove	28 32
1/20	H	Chesterton	28 38
1/21	H	Hobart	58 61
1/27	A	LaPorte	22 41
1/28	A	Wheeler	43 37
2/3	H	Lake Central	30 42
2/9	A	Michigan City	38 54
2/14	H	Munster	41 51
2/17	A	Crown Point	32 43
2/24	H	Merrillville	58 63

Freshmen Boys B-Ball

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/29	H	Valparaiso	35 51
12/1	A	LaPorte	32 46
12/6	H	Chesterton	46 37
12/8	H	Lake Central	31 42
12/12	A	Marquette	37 28
1/5	A	Merrillville	31 38
1/12	A	Valparaiso	23 42
1/17	A	Crown Point	41 45
1/19	A	Chesterton	33 39
1/24	H	Andean	55 27
1/31	H	Merrillville	46 52
2/2	A	Lake Central	32 41





Girls Swimming and Diving



Radley McEntara

Senior



Greatest Athlete

"Leading the team as captain, I believe my greatest achievement was being awarded the mental attitude award for swimming."

Greatest Academic achievement:

"Focused in foreign language I am most proud of going through Spanish one through five honors, Spanish for native speakers, and Chinese one and two."



In mid dive sophomore Nicholas Dove retains proper form as he performs his dive. As the size of the team this year was quite small underclassman such as Dove were relied upon to step up and lead the newcomers toward a successful season.

Prior to beginning a race sophomore Jordan Bailey lines up and takes his stance along with his competition. The boys anxiously await the sound of the buzzer to begin the race. The team trained extremely hard for several months to prepare.



A Team That Stays Together

In spite of their standing record of two and eight this year's swimmers have had quite an inspiring season. With the addition of new coaching staff this season a fresh spin had been put on the way the team was run. Coach McCune was added as the assistant swimming instructor and Coach Hulse was hired as the assistant coach in charge of the diving team.

"Both have done a bang up job with their coaching styles, techniques, initiative, and focus on the students instead of the results. We were lucky to have them as staff this year I feel they contributed to the boy's growth and improvement," stated head coach John Zack.

There is no doubt in mind that the boys had a rough season this year, faced with the fact that there were only a mere seventeen members on the team was an immense hurdle to overcome. This hindrance became quite evident when the

boys opposed teams such as Chesterion whose team member ship was nearly triple in size.

Despite the lack of members at hand the team did an outstanding job of continually improving, maturing, and showing amazing tenacity towards overcoming their opponents.

Training took place eleven times each week. The team trained between two to almost four hours each day. During practice the boys would swim anywhere from five thousand to eleven thousand yards. Prior to swimming the team would undergo a warm up followed by and exercise in refining stroke technique, practicing strategies through sets of time intervals, yardage, and stroke.

Due to the immense amount of time spent together practicing and competing the boys began to resemble not only that of a team but a brother hood.

"We were able to progress together and argue when necessary, but at the end of the day we stood by one another. I felt close with all members on the team especially the seniors. I was able to depend on them to pick up the leadership mantle and to show rather than tell what Portage swimming is about. You almost always feel their loss as the boys take off their goggles for the last time," explains Zack.

Regardless of the team's ending record the boys put forth their finest efforts throughout the season. In the end the standing stats were not what made this season successful, the determination, devotion, and passion for the sport was what set the boys apart during the season.



Up for a breath of air, Freshman Ben DeLaCruz pushes hard to finish the end of the race victoriously. As a freshman DeLaCruz was quickly adapted to the hard working team adding to the already established devotion to the team.

In order to prepare for the meet junior Sean Toomey listens to music to relax and ready himself for his race. Toomey was also involved in both the fall play "Inherit the Wind and spring musical "My Fair Lady."

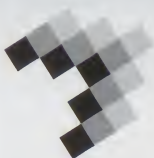


Post racing coach Melanie Karmel speaks with team members Sean Toomey, Nicholas Dove, and Jacob Anderson. Karmel coach of the girl's team was also active in assisting andvising the boy's team members.

Boys Swimming



Coaching Staff:
KYLE JONES
DUSTIN HEATH
BOBBY BARNAS
SAM GONZALEZ
BRAD HOMAN
CHRIS LONGO
KEN NOLAN





Girls Gymnastics: Grace, Poise and Strength



Lisa Carroll
Ashley Farley
Kelley Mackoviyak
Carolyn Peters
Sarah Rosser
Andrea Ryan
Erica Tellez

Head Coach: Shelli Burrow

Assistant: Nikki Gass



*Grapplers take
to the mats
for victory*





Wrestling

Joe Arroyo, Tomas Cekauskas, Tyler Encinas, Riche Hill, John Mahaffey, Matt Porter, Troy Hill, Kurtis Robinson, Chad Allen, Tony Nuzzo, Chris Saylor, Adam Walters, Bobby Drury, Matt Henry, Randy Mantz, Chris Mendoza, Chris Santos, Ryan Vottero, Cortie Wilson, Kyle Kelth, Chad Biddle, Dave Murray, Scott Cherry, William Pearson, John Brandon, Nathaniel Coleman, Erik Rhein, Jeff Robb, Richard Sandage, Chad Edmaston, Steve Juszcak, Justin Smith, Justin Willis, Avery Pearman, Jordan Hankel, Billy Pearman, Max VanWormer, Andres Magana, Thattus McMurray, Ian Young, Trent Ellis

Varsity

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/22	A	Highland	45 12
11/30	A	Michigan City	65 17
12/7	H	Merrillville	22 39
12/10	A	Calumet Invite	3rd Place
12/14	A	LaPorte	50 15
12/29	A	N. MONTGOMERY INVITE	
12/30	A	N. MONTGOMERY INVITE	4 3
1/4	H	Valparaiso	43 28
1/7	A	CROWN POINT INVITE	3 0
1/11	A	Lake Central	56 9
1/18	A	Lowell	37 23
1/21	A	HOBART INVITE	Win
1/25	H	Chesterton	51 12
1/28	A	Sectional @ LAPOORTE	Win
2/1	H	Regional (Team) @ PHS	1 1

JV Wrestling

Date	H/A	Opponent	Us-Them
11/22	A	Highland	69 5
12/14	A	LaPorte	61 10
1/4	H	Valparaiso	43 28
1/7	A	IND. CATHEDRAL INVITE	53 12
1/25	H	Chesterton	43 9

Head Coach: Jason Hayes

Assistants:

Pat Wilkins

Brian Laik

Tony Alaniz







Softball

Krystie Sanchez, Collette Pennington, Amanda Sedoris, Courtney Glos, Kristen Lee, Samantha Meints, Ashley Norman, Taylor Helmick, Brittany Buzza, Karl Nugent, Olivia Leggett, Ashleigh Janiga, Colleen Scott, Rachel Reed, Samantha Rodriguez, Erica Armstrong, Alex Rodriguez, Melissa Russell, Meagan Gutierrez, Samantha Griffith, Jessica Sedoris, Amanda Glos, Brittany Buzza, Courtney Glos, Holly Percifield, Brittani Cain, Melanie Cunningham, Jill Hufgard, Erica Armstrong, Ashleigh Janiga, Kristen Helmick, Tonya Purcell, Tiffany Keil, Hannah Pajor, Jessica Bruno, Hannah Smock, Brittany Denmond, Samantha Rodriguez

Varsity		
Date	H/A	Opponent
4/3	A	Lowell
4/4	H	Crown Point
4/6	H	LaPorte
4/8	A	INTS CLASSIC @ SBCNIA
4/10	H	Hobart
4/11	A	Valparaiso
4/13	A	Merrillville
4/15	A	Harrison
4/18	A	Lake Central
4/19	H	Michigan City
4/21	H	Chesterton
4/22	H	Lincolnton East
4/24	H	Kankakee Valley
4/25	A	Crown Point
4/27	A	LaPorte
4/28	A	Lakeshore Tourney (Hich)
5/1	H	Valparaiso
5/2	H	Penn
5/3	H	Merrillville
5/4	H	Lake Central
5/9	A	Michigan City
5/10	A	Griffin
5/11	A	Chesterton
5/13	H	Boone Grove
5/18	H	Highland
5/20	A	Hunster
5/22	H	Sectional @ Portage

JV Softball		
Date	H/A	Opponent
4/3	A	Lowell
4/4	H	Crown Point
4/6	H	LaPorte
4/10	H	Hobart
4/11	A	Valparaiso
4/13	A	Merrillville
4/15	A	Harrison
4/17	A	Lake Central
4/19	H	Michigan City
4/21	H	Chesterton
4/22	H	Lincolnton East
4/24	A	Crown Point
4/27	A	LaPorte
4/28	A	Highland JV Tourney
4/29	A	Highland JV Tourney
5/1	H	Valparaiso
5/2	H	Penn
5/3	H	Merrillville
5/4	H	Lake Central
5/9	A	Michigan City
5/10	A	Griffin
5/11	A	Chesterton
5/17	H	Boone Grove
5/18	A	Highland
5/20	A	Hunster

Coch: Jeff Smith

Ass'ts: Dave Mattix, Tracy Pickett

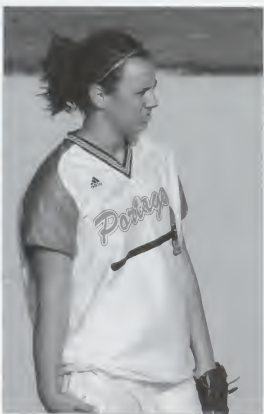
J.V. Coach: Missy Fekete

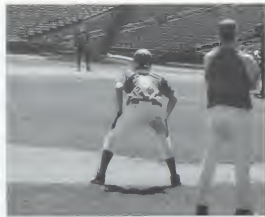
Ass'ts: Dave Ortiz, Deb Seeley, Michele Pickering

*Softball:
tougher than
you think*









Baseball

Mate Hunt, Anthony Plummer, Ben's Bird, Shane Doo, Russ Bailey, Bobby Barnes, Shane France, Chris Longo, Jeff Disney, Chris Murray, Scott Cherry, Phil Wright, Pedro Ramos, Mark Dietz, Mike Sinkus, Matt Bryan, Tommy Torres, Matt Walters, D.J. Anderson, Luke Manoski, Nikola Ivanovic, Larry Vaughan, Andrew Bustos, Bracy Beas, Chad Crite, Steve Bryan, Tommy Lynch, Dan Delgado, Tommy Bewley, Matt Kawiecki, C.J. Peters, Sam Farkas, Benny Wright, Eric Ramian, David Berridge, Shane Hall, Ryan Cherry, Dominic Reboj, Jason Melic, Grant Cummings, Josiah Sherrow, Justin Ortiz, Steve Estridge, Jacob Maddack, Zach Przybyls, Nick Vaughan, Derek Gibbs, Caleb McKee, Mike Sheehan

Coach: Tim Pirowski

Assistant: Bob Dixon

Success Despite Stastics

In order to complete what has come to be known as a successful season, much more than wins and batting averages must be taken into consideration. The fundamentals of success begin within the team and are only accomplished with that of teamwork, passion, and determination.

Though the season's record may not have turned out as successfully as many had hoped through the trials and tribulations along the way each member learned from mistakes made and were able to grow together, as a team. With an ending regular season record of seven and nineteen it was undeniable that this year proved to be a rebuilding season.

Opening the season, faced against Elkhart Memorial and unfortunately ending with the team's hopes crushed completing the game in the top of the fifth due to the ten run rule. Though the following games proved to also have similar endings after this disappointment early into the season the boys greatly improved with the games that followed.

Able to take and hold the lead for the first innings of the game when faced against teams ranked in the state such as Lake Central, Merrillville, and Crown Point it became evident that these boys did indeed possess the talent necessary to defeat such successful schools. As fans watched and followed the team it seemed as though the potential possible was evident to everyone but the players themselves.

Mid season attitudes changed during the Railcats High School Baseball Challenge where Portage was up first to face Hammond

Clark. Playing in a close game with an ending score of seven to six in favor of the Indians, a boost of confidence was once again instilled in the minds of the players. Receiving both titles of MVP and Player of the Game junior, Robert Barnes and sophomore, William Doll received special honors due to their excellent performances during the game.

Returning to the regularity of the high school field proved once again disheartening for the boys. Many of the conference games, which followed unfortunately, were not able to go as the players, coaches, and fans had hoped.

Once again the team members saw a glimmer of hope as they competed in the Twin Lakes Tournament late into the season. Defeating both teams and taking the title of Twin Lakes Tournament Champions the boys were able to regain the confidence, which they lacked during the majority of the season. As the regular season came to a close the team readied themselves to face their first opponent, Merrillville in the first round of sectionals. Drawing previous state championship winners undoubtedly forced the team to work extremely hard to prove themselves able to continue to compete in sectional competition.

Beginning the game with a rocky start the team was down five to one by the fifth inning of the game. With an amazing inning and an incredible amount of teamwork the boys were able to inch their way back in closing the gap with a score of four to five. Unfortunately as the game progressed the boys were unable to prevail ending the game and a season of hard work with a disappointing score of nine to four.

Ready for the pitch junior Nathan Hall prepares his stance and awaits his chance to get on base. Hall went three for three throughout the game, aiding the Indians in their victory over Hammond Clark early in the season.



At the top of the lineup sophomore William Doll steps up to the plate ready to swing. Doll though only a sophomore proved to be an important asset to the team at various times throughout the season. Doll also participated in varsity football earlier in the year.





After rounding third, Robert Barnas pauses as he awaits for his chance to score his first run of the game. Barnas went on to accumulate two runs, a stolen base and the title of player of the game.

How Did the

Season Play?



In terms of wins and losses our season didn't go as planned but all in all we were able to come together and make the best out of our season.

Senior

Season Go?



In mid pitch senior Christopher Murray prepares to throw the ball and strike out the batter. Murray was able to pitch a complete game helping the team to defeat Hammond Clark with a score of seven to six during the Railcats High School Challenge.



Prior to playing, the team huddles together as head coach, Timothy Pirowski prepares his players for a winning game. Despite a rocky start the players managed to pull together and not only come out victorious but to successfully work in unison.

New tennis courts make changes for the better

HUNTER- Tennis became a really popular sport this year at Portage High School. Over fifty girls tried out for the tennis team and out of those fifty girls only eighteen made it, Junior Varsity and Varsity included.

Many exceptional competitors emerged this season on the girls tennis team. Among those was # 1 player, sophomore Tasha Sever. Sever has been playing tennis since she was seven years old having private lessons here and in Chicago. Sever participated on the soccer team last year and this year she decided to join tennis after many years of experience.

The girls tennis players put in a lot of work this season to become better players and improve their overall record. Starting in the beginning of April, the girls practiced everyday for

1-2 hours improving their skill and technique. Practicing everyday had great rewards and brought about proud moments as Meghan Doyle said "The best moments in tennis is winning a match." This was Meghan Doyle's first year on the tennis team.

All of the girls on the tennis team enjoyed it a lot this year because all of them were such good friends. When asked her favorite thing about being on tennis this year sophomore Angela Mills said "I loved having all of my close friends on the team with me." This season the girls tennis team consisted of mostly sophomores as opposed to other years where there were mostly juniors and seniors on the team.

Girls Tennis underwent a lot of changes this year with the new tennis courts and all of the new team members.

Girls tennis was one of the most successful athletics this school year with Tasha Sever winning sectionals and going on to regionals.

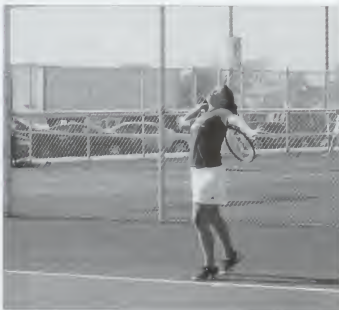
Being successful in tennis was the main goal of the coaches and of the tennis players this school year and the girls definitely achieved that making this one of their most successful seasons ever. They accomplished that with time, hard work, dedication, and an overall good attitude towards tennis. The team focused on strategy and individual skills to beat their opponents.

The girls tennis players next year will be sure to benefit from all of the skills and experiences the underclassmen of this year showed. With such a good work ethic, the girls tennis team will be sure to improve in years to come.



Technique and skill is displayed while this freshmen tennis player serves to her opponent. Technique and skill were some of the main goals that the tennis players sought to accomplish this season.

While getting ready to spike the ball sophomore Kristin Knuth displays lots of talent and determination. Knuth was on tennis for the first time along with a lot of friends. Knuth helped the Indians to many victories this season.



While competing at Sectionals, sophomore Tasha Sever holds her position waiting for the ball to come her way. Tasha ended up winning her sectionals match that day. She had an amazing season this year, giving all of her opponents a run for their money.

Ball in the air, sophomore Meghan Doyle gets ready to serve to the other team during her doubles match. This is Doyle's first year on the tennis team.



While waiting in her doubles match, sophomore Angela Mills is ready to hit the ball. Mills has been involved in many activities including the Pow Wow staff and soccer. Mills' clean serves helped the Indians do well throughout the season.



Before the match, a PHS player practices her serve so that she can be ready for her game. The girls often practiced before tennis matches to ensure that they did a great job.

*Boys Golf:
Swing for show,
Putt for dough*





To jump in the middle of a run takes great skill and precise timing. Freshman Kelly Stanley exudes the skill and timing abilities as she runs the hurdles event at the Portage Relays. If one were to jump a second off, the results could be disastrous.



Girls Track and Field Goes for the gold

WHAT IS YOUR

Look Taylor



When Taylor, Grace, and I were at the sectional track meet and we were running back and forth across the track to take pictures and cheer for Christina Blackwell!

Senior

BEST MEMORY?

The look on senior Christina Blackwell's face testifies to the amount of anxiety that comes with running track. Blackwell paces back and forth as she awaits her turn to run in the four by eight relay race, running as the anchor.





While competing in the long jump event, sophomore Megan Rawdon soars through the air to receive an excellent distance. A great deal of leg strength is needed to be able to jump the exceptional length needed to earn a good placement for this event.

After their relay race, seniors Christina Blackwell and Kristen Myers and junior Theresa Calaug discuss how each of them performed. The three, along with teammate sophomore Melinda Misch, formed a great bond relying on each other in the relay.



The girls of the Portage Track team share a laugh as they warm up and stretch before the DAC meet. While some girls use their conversations with each other as a booster, others choose to listen to their favorite music to get the adrenaline flowing.

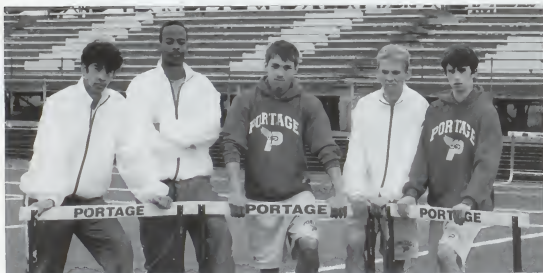
Boys Track: Beyond the Expectations

Laingren- The runner's heart beats against his chest as his feet tip toe on the pavement like a gazelle sprinting from a beast. He starts to lose his breath but ignores this loss of air and strives for the gold.

This year has been an exceptionally good year for the boys track team. The boys did outstanding at regionals winning 3rd and won 4th in DAC overall. Boys went 5th in the Southport relays and got 6th in the Indiana relays. Although getting these places in various expeditions these boys became Sectional Champions.

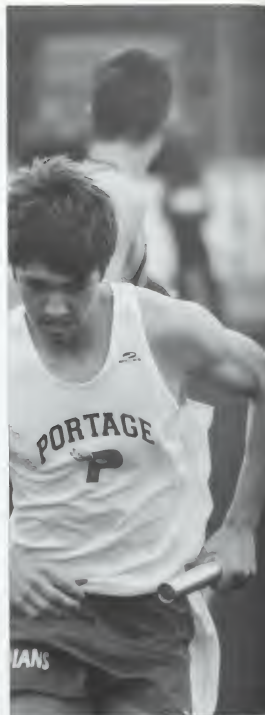
Seven of Portage's finest athletes went to state this year, and were lead by Phillip Heckhausen. Phillip placed 6th in the 3200-meter run at state and is also a foreign exchange student from Germany and this is his first time running for the Portage High School team.

Also earning All-state honors: Jake Alborn, Max Mulvihill, Joe Efantis and Myles Tolliver; who finished the 4x800 relay with their seasons best time. Jim Flannery also went to state in the 1600-meter run and Nathan Smith for his excellence in the shot put.



Intimidating pictures taken by the hurdlers to remember a well earned track season.

Finishing the final stretch, David Longfellow charges forward to try and win another medal for Portage.





Rushing towards the finish, Brandon Campbell and Mark Fischer, race to end the 2006 track season.

While waiting for the track meet to begin Caleb Serrano and team member stand together for pictures.



Vincent Razo Junior



Greatest Athletic

achievement:
When I won my very first 100 meter hurdles race.

Greatest Academic
achievement:
When I got on the, "A" Honor Roll, at school.



During a grueling meet against Laporte, senior Jake Ahlborn and Miles Tolliver sprint to finish in one of the many relays.

Cheerleading



Alison Horner
Blair Horner
Amy Blakely
Jessica Rocha
Brittany Beers
Bizzy Brown
Kara Kostelnik
Jesse Mets
Colette Lambaur
Ronell Hulse
Becca Kobe
Stephanie Tanis
Stephanie Phipps
Stephanie Bowman
Jessica Barret
Wendy Windsor
Cindy Willis
Taylor Haraminac
Aubrey Warwick
Sarah Brown
Brittany Dahlgren

Dancing, cheering, stunting and tumbling = Cheerleading

Beaudreau - "Cheerleading is a sport!" said sophomore Becca Kobe. Cheerleading really does require just as much physical as any other sport.

Cheerleaders perform at football games, basketball games, and they even get to go to rigorous competitions in really neat places. This year they were awarded a second place at Six Flags Great America for the routine that they performed.

Practices are usually about 2 hours each day after school. The team started out with 35 members at the beginning of the year and ended the year with only about 18 due to injuries and girls that moved away.

To achieve a letter in cheerleading one must be able to perform over all good skills. They must be able to

tumble, jump, and do certain stunts. They must participate in competitions and have a good attitude and good attendance.

"One of the perks to being a cheerleader is having a season pass for all home sporting events," said Wendy Windsor.

For this year the uniforms were chosen by the coaches. You can recognize the cheerleaders by the black stripe on the side of their uniforms. Next years uniforms were chosen by the team members from this year.

Most of the girls are treated equally by their coaches and their other team members. The seniors are naturally given more responsibility because they know more about the sport all together.



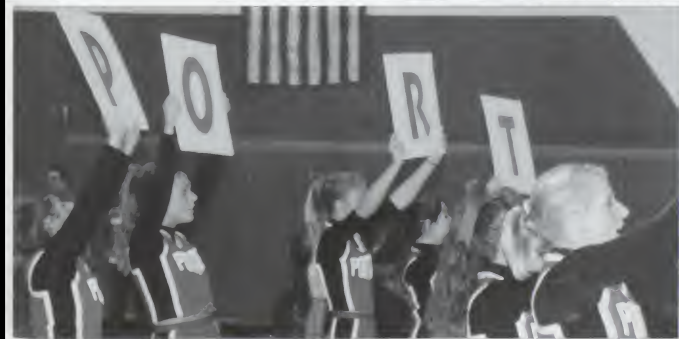
As the cheerleaders walk in the parade, they show their pearly whites. They participate in the homecoming parade each year. The cheerleaders also cheer the at football games, basketball games, and at Great America for competition.

"We have to be able to do a standing tuck, double toe touch, get to practice on time, put forth a lot of effort and have a good attitude during practice and performances." Said sophomore Kara Kostelnik. She has been a cheerleader for 13 years!





At homecoming, the cheerleaders help represent the Portage High School football team. The team walks through the gym while being acknowledged by the cheerleaders holding their traditional school colored poms. The classic red and white.



P-O-R-T-A-G-E is one of the common chants that someone can here during a basketball game, or a football game. Cheerleaders even competed at Six Flags Great America and got a second place award for their routine at the beginning of the year.

This year was extremely important for the girl's of the POMs team. Winning State and taking a huge trophy home with them was just the beginning of what they won for their school. The brought home respect for Portage by winning State.



IS MONEY A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

Alicia McMurray



My parents complain sometimes about the money issues. But they know I love it so they are still willing to pay.

Junior

Valeria Vashe



I love the girls on the team. I don't know what I would do without them. Each of us have a spunky personality and I love them. We are practically family because we're with each other 24/7

Junior

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT POM?

On Opening Day for Walmart Supercenter, our Poms team was asked to come down there and cheer. As the crowd cheered along, the Poms team tried out a new routine.



Should Poms be made into a sport because of money issues?

Greer - While most people would argue that our Poms team should be considered a sport instead of a club, our team is perfectly okay with being considered a club. One aspect that is good about being a club is that our girls are allowed to have competition on Sundays. One thing that is unfair about being considered a club is that our girls' Poms team works just as hard as any sports team does. Plus our team doesn't get any funding from the school, which means they have to pay for everything. Now you ask yourself how much can Poms really cost, well I'll tell you it costs over two-thousand dollars. Our Poms team has to pay for everything from outfits to costume designs to different routines to even down to paying to compete in a competition.

"It was really hard for me. I had to

get a job to pay for it all, but it was worth it." Stated junior Cassie Janis.

Of course you ask yourselves who in their right minds would pay two thousand dollars to be in a school dance club? Well for most of these select girls it is simply because they love to dance. Most of them have been dancing longer than they have been in high school.

"I have been dancing since I was three. I was in cheerleading, and danced at Julianne's dance studio before I joined the team." Said junior Felicia Vucko.

For most of the girls being on the team is really fun, a place for them to bond, and do what they love, dance. Of course it's not fun and games all the time, they have to work hard and come up with different routines for various situations; while having to

remember three completely different routines throughout their season. They have the regular POMS dance, the famous hip-hop routine, and the fairly new jazz routine.

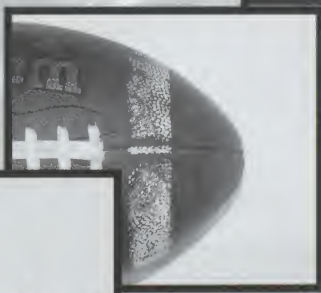
"Some of the practices are really hard, especially before our big competitions!" said junior Alicia McMurray.

Many of the girls joined POMS not only because of their love to dance, but to be involved with school, be on a competitive team, or even to make new friends. Like any other team there are plus and drawbacks. One thing that is great is being on a team can make long time friendships, but yet also being on the team means spending every waking moment with the same girls everyday.



After doing their Jazz routine that got high praise and applause, the girls of the Poms team stand in unison for the last pose.

While taking a break at the opening day at the Wal-mart store, the Poms team reflects back on their performances in front of the welcomed customers.



Student Life

After winning the title of fall homecoming queen and Mr. Football seniors, Sarah Gomez and Christopher Longo pose for a picture. Each title is an honor because homecoming queen is a nominated and voted on position and Mr. Football is chosen by the football team.

In deep concentration on the game junior, Robert Barnas watches from the sideline. Barnas plays tight end for the varsity team. Barnas also plays outfield for the schools baseball team.



While riding in the annual homecoming parade senior homecoming queen nominee, Mallory Rapatta flashes the crowd a smile. All the nominees ride on a car during the parade.

Thoroughly enjoying themselves, a group of senior girls throw their arms up in the air in excitement while riding on the senior float that was built. The seniors girls also performed a hip hop dance at the pep rally that was coreographed by senior Katherine Batista.



...and the nominees are:

Chad Biddle and Niko Yates



Dillon Albee and Jasmine Caraballo



Sara Gomez and Adam Walton



Continuing Tradition

REDDEN - In keeping tradition, homecoming week proved to be a fun and busy week as usual. During this week an immense amount of opportunities are offered to partake in, such as, spirit days, float building, homecoming parade, pep rally, powder puff football, and of course the homecoming game itself.

Homecoming took place on September 16th. Disappointingly though, the team walked off the field that day of homecoming with a loss. The final score was Crown Point 31, Portage 21. Another disappointment came when the senior girls lost the powder puff game to the junior girls.

"We lost, but it is ok, it was a really fun experience, what other time do you get the opportunity to be with just your senior girls and play football," explained senior Ashley Blonski.

At the pep rally quarterback senior, Erik Rhein won the cutest baby while, Sara Gomez and Adam Walters won the mock court. Mock court is where a nominee chooses a guy and they dress as the opposite sex.

The seniors girls performed the now traditional senior girl's hip hop dance, the dance is always choreographed by one of the senior class members. This year Katherine Batista took charge of it.

"Making up the dance, teaching it and being able to perform it at the pep rally is one of my favorite memories of my senior year," said senior, Katherine Batista.

The homecoming game kept with the pattern that seemed to be set this season, the team came close but could not pull ahead in the end. No matter the outcome of the game, in typical homecoming fashion it seemed that everyone in Portage attended the game. The stands were absolutely crowded with no room to spare. The community really showed what homecoming is truly about.

Though there were a few disappointments during homecoming, it did not prevent anyone from joining in and having a good time. Homecoming once again, proved to be full of extra school activities and events opened to the whole student population to participate in.

Ready to catch the ball senior Shane Dixon continues to run and stay open in preparation for the catch. Dixon plays receiver for the team. Not only is Dixon a varsity player for football but also in the spring for baseball.

Jasmine Caraballo
Senior



What do you think about it?
It was one of the best things I was able to do, I had a lot of fun and I would do it again.

Greatest Academic Achievement!
Earning A honor roll is my greatest academic achievement.



Zack Manoski and Kali Gibson

Mallory Goin and JT Sarrotto

Olivia Zarmann and Raul Leal

Brandon Campbell and Mallory



While her teammates are out on the field doing well junior Justine Carlotta jumps up and down in excitement for her team. Most girls have a lot of fun during Powder Puff because their closest friends are on their team.

Before the game was in full swing, the senior girls hit poses for the camera. Although, they gave it their all the girls walked off the field with an unfortunate lost to the junior girls.



Middle picture above: With her hands thrown up in the air senior, Jessica Bolint is excitedly cheering on her team. Bolint has been on the poms dance team as well as, a dancer for the musicals.

With a smile, senior Erik Rhein stands with some of his fellow senior teammates as he gives his small speech for the pep rally. The seniors on the team are often times looked at as the leaders.





Prior to the game the junior girls gather for a quick group shot. The juniors played a hard game and it paid off for them. The junior girls ended up defeating the senior girls in the game.



With hand over heart, senior Anna Fannin stands for the singing of the national anthem during the Powder Puff game. Fannin was a mid year graduate with academic honors.

In preparation of the next play senior, Erik Rhein positions himself. Rhein is the quarterback of the team and a captain of the team. Rhein is also a member of the wrestling team.





Inherit the Wind a fall play success

CULP - The debate of evolution versus creation is one that has been long standing. In 1925, the Scopes Monkey Trial took place in Tennessee as a result of evolution being banned in public schools with the institution of the Butler Act. The fall play this year was a play loosely based on that very trial. "Inherit the Wind" was chosen as replacement for the original fall play choice of "Bleacher Burns."

The play was acted out beautifully by a cast of forty-two, made up of a mix of seasoned stage veterans and new rookies of performance. Senior Anthony Mendizabal decided to try out for the fall play after letting the last three pass by him.

"I finally decided to put my talents to good use," Mendizabal says. "I have always wanted to take part in a play, so I decided to go for it this year."

When the switch was made from "Bleacher Burns" to "Inherit the Wind," there was a need for more actors. This need is what sparked sophomore Joseph DiCicco's acting career.

"I was approached by Mr. [Patrick] Moody about trying out because they needed more people," DiCicco explains. "I decided to show up and I am glad that I did."

For many weeks, the actors of the fall play were required to stay after school in order to practice their production. The extended period of time these students spend together

after school allows them to form bonds with one another.

"The kinds of relationships depends on the cast mate," DiCicco explains. "We all developed some kind of friendship with one another. Some cast mates I just say 'hi' to in the hallway, but others I hang out with and are close friends with."

For the veterans, the excitement and anticipation that comes with the fall play is something that they are used to. The rookie actors were able to harness the experience and advice from their veteran cast mates.

"I was nervous before showtime," Mendizabal relates. "Everybody was trying to tell me that it was going to be fine so I just chilled by myself."

The anticipation and excitement brought on by the continued practice came to a climax on Friday, December 2, 2005, as the curtain went up for the first performance of "Inherit the Wind." The night was complemented by a second performance on Saturday night.

Overall, the production was a great success. The audience both nights were treated to quality high school acting. The actors themselves were able to reap the benefits of expressing their talents, meeting new people, and cultivating new relationships. The camaraderie built during the production of the fall play by each cast mate is one that will, as Mendizabal explains, "flourish through eternity."



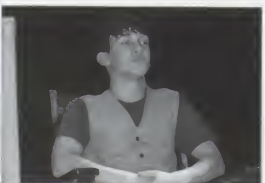
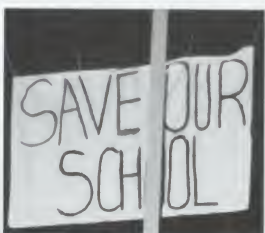


As part of the play, junior Taylor Grascel protests against the idea of evolution being taught in the school system. It seems that the Scopes monkey trial is still pretty relevant in today's world.



As he entered into his last year at Portage High School, senior Anthony Mendizabal decided to show his talents and try out for the fall play. Though it was his first attempt at being in the fall play, Mendizabal was able to land one of the main roles.

While in a dress rehearsal, junior Shawn Toomey and Christopher Thorn perfect their scene before opening night. Toomey and Thorn have both been in various performances on the stage throughout their high school.





photos by Natalie Johnson







Cutting the High School Experience Short

With the completion of the extensive, exhausting yet life-altering experience of high school, graduation arrives as a bittersweet moment in the lives of each high school senior. Throughout the journey of one's education graduation seems only that of a distant thought, as the school days seem endless and the numerous assignments appear never ending.

For midyear graduates the journey through the educational system approaches even more drastically than usual. Whether the decision to graduate early results as an opportunity to establish money for college, obtain a jump-start on future schooling, or simply to join the work force early these students have chosen to leave behind the comfort and familiarity of high school undoubtedly moving on to bigger and better endeavors.

"Currently I am working to save money for future schooling. In the fall I will be attending Indiana

University Northwest to study nursing. Marriage is also a future plan within the next two years.

Regardless of the tasks at hand after graduation these young adults will venture out into the world gaining real life experience and the knowledge necessary to hold a successful place in society. This along with various words of wisdom, encouragement, and advice were presented to the students as Principle Richard Kirchner, Superintendent Michael Berta, and Mayor Douglas Olsen advised the graduates on the lives they were about to embark on.

Accompanying the speeches, during the ceremony were both the orchestra and choralliers. Each group performed during the closing of the ceremony as the calling of names and the awarding of diplomas was finished. Performing the song "Go the distance," from the Hercules soundtrack the choralliers took to the stage providing both the audience and graduates with a

moment of past memories and future hopes. Upon exiting the gymnasium, the orchestra played one last song finish, drawing the ceremony to a close.

The midterm graduating class of 2006 was composed of seventy-one students who readily prepared themselves for their premature exit to high school. Nineteen members of the graduating class departed from the school system with the prestigious Academie Honors diploma, while forty-five students were awarded with the Core 40 diploma.

Undoubtedly bound for success, the graduates, departing from this institution have extremely bright futures to look forward to. As a result of the nurture and care provided by teachers and faculty alike the growth and development necessary to overcome future happenings has been accomplished.

Prior to superintendent, Michael Berta speaking to the student body principal Richard Kirchner congratulates the students on their graduation. Kirchner went on providing the graduates with words of wisdom concerning past achievements and future endeavors

In anticipation of the ceremonies completion, the students listen as the numerous, lasting memories run through their minds. The students intently listened to each speaker, absorbing the helpful and encouraging information they provided.

After the speeches were completed Mr. Ralph Mundt announced the names of the graduates. Superintendent Mr. Michael Berta was at the end of the line to award diplomas and congratulate each student on completion of their high schooling





As the graduates are awarded their diplomas by superintendent Mr. Michael Berta their high school careers come to an end as their passage towards adulthood officially begins. After the diplomas were distributed the choralliers ended the ceremony with a song.

The end of the graduation ceremony was met with an assembly of the graduates and their families. Natasha Miller stands outside the school saying her final fairwells to her fellow peers as she ventures into the rest of her life.



Upon entering the gymnasium, the students stand prior to the start of ceremony. The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem followed by speeches given by the superintendent, Principle Richard Kirchner, and Mayor Olsen.

PLANS AFTER

Natasha Miller



"After high school I will continue to work and save money for school. In the fall I will be attending Indiana University Northwest to study nursing."

Senior

HIGH SCHOOL

During a practice, seniors Alexandra Stewart and Katherine Batista discuss the fitness routine they choreographed together. Stewart was awarded Junior Miss and Batista was awarded second runner up.

Eric Ruiz successful in OYM

Beaudreau - Each year the senior class, the Thespians, and Mr. Stevens host a scholarship program for the male seniors of Portage High School. The program is called Outstanding Young Man (OYM).

This year OYM was hosted in the auditorium on Saturday February 4, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. This years winner was senior Eric Ruiz. Runners up included Joe Morales, Bryan Norkus, Kris Evans, and Radley Alcantara.

Each year a panel of judges is selected from within the community. Every year there are many prizes given out to all of the contestants. Every contestant receives a YMCA

membership, a \$100 cash scholarship and miscellaneous gifts. The winner of OYM receives a \$2000 cash scholarship, a medallion, a plaque, a watch, a YMCA membership and other gift certificates and gifts.

There are also many other awards given out for many other parts of the show. There is a good guy award given out to 3 participants. There are 4 awards given out for Academic achievement. There are 4 awards given for the physical segment of the show. There are also awards given for the casual portion and the presentation and address awards.

During his interview, senior Jordan Clough thinks his answer over very carefully. "OYM was a great experience. Meeting new people was a lot of fun. We got a lot of great prizes just for doing it. Even though I did not win any awards I would do it again in a heartbeat."



During the fitness routine, senior Marc Santarromana flexes. Santarromana was chosen by the other participants to receive the good guy award. This award is a scholarship for a guy that has said to exhibit what the Outstanding Young Man should.





During a practice the senior boys received a lesson on shaking their hips from Stewart and Batista for their fitness routine. These boys practiced moving in sync with one another in order to make the routine look right.

It was one of the first days of practice for OYM seniors Nathan Smith and Randall Dawkins perfect their new learned dance moves that they used during their fitness routine. One of the benefits of participating in OYM is the opportunity to hang out with your friends in your grade.



Anthony Mandizabal Senior



What talent did you perform and why did you choose it?

"I acted out a scene from the play. I was most comfortable with it."

What were the perks of Oym?

"The delicious food, the gifts and the pals."



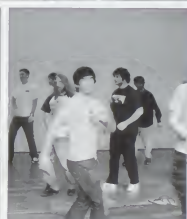
During the nights of OYM, Mr. Stevens asked each contestant one question. Here senior Nolan Corlett ponders his response before delivering the answer. The question portion is used to show off the personality of each senior boy to the judges.

On the final night of OYM the contestants all stand on stage to await the announcement of the finalist and the announcement of the new outstanding young man. The program also awarded all the participants \$100 scholarship for their college.





photos by Natalie Johnson





**Students
WIN!!!**

Student - Faculty Basketball



*Students
WJN!!!*



Winter Homecoming 2006





A Variety of Talent

REDDEN - On January 24th the east auditorium was transfereed once again into a platform for talent. The annual variety show displayed an array of dancers from hip hop, lyrical, theater, to tap and clogging.

Bands, singers, and instrument players, were also there to entertain the crowd with original songs or covers.

This year a spectrum of dance styles were demonstrated, hip hop seemed to be a extremely crowd pleasing choice though.

"I believe everyone liked our act. At least I hope that the audience enjoyed it as much as I did. We practiced very hard and we gave it our all. I loved my group and I am just happy that I was able to experience that moment with my friends," explained senior Claudia Martinez when asked about her dance with her friends.

Perhaps one of the most entertaining performances of the night

came from two brothers and their Comedy Rock Fusion performance. Senior Jordan Hart and brother Jacob Hart performed "Business Time". This act was a nice diversion from the typical song or dance routine, it provided a good laugh while listening to the fine talent the boys have musically.

"I was nervous before I got up on stage but a weird calm came over me when I started. After the song, I felt great from the adrenaline rush from performing. The crowd's reaction was almost too popular, I could not hear myself in some points of the song. Though we did screw up at a few points of the song it went better than I could have hoped for," senior Jordan Hart concluded about his performance.

The music that is performed is always superb due to the audition process, many bands try out but this year only three bands actually had the opportunity to perform at the show.

All three bands displayed their dedication and love for music.

"We picked our two favorite jams to play, since I have been doing this my whole life I was pretty comfortable playing in front of people, when I perform I feel like I do not want it to end. The crowd was responsive too, I could hear them cheering over my guitar and I had it cranked so I'm pretty sure they liked it," junior Cody Richart said in explanation for his performance.

Once again the Bitchin' Ballarina's were a huge success. Senior boys Eric Ruiz, Aaron Barnes, James Flannery, Brandon Campbell and Brendon Mulroe performed one of the most memorable versions of the annual dance thus far. The whole crowd was pumped and excited to see this.

Over all the Variety Show provided an enjoyable way to spend a Friday night.



How do you feel

Cody Richart

"I think we did very well, we did our best we could do and most importantly we had alot of fun doing it."

Junior

You did???

In one of the most crowd celebrated dances of the night, this group performed a very well coreographed and excuted hip hop styled dance.

In arabesque, sophomore Natalie Johnson leaves the crowd in awe as she performs a lyrical routine to Anna Nalick's "Breath". Johnson has been a studio dancer for a long time and also is involved in musicals for the high school.





While performing, the Bitchin' Ballerinas brought seniors to their feet. Though it is a tradition to have this dance, this year the boys decided to do something different and perform not only to a classical song but also to the popular hit by the Black Eye Peas, "My Humps".

Best friends since their youth, seniors Jessica Bolint and Kali Gibson perform a dance they choreographed to "Love" by Keisha Cole. These two girls have not only been for a long time but also have been dancing together for a long time.

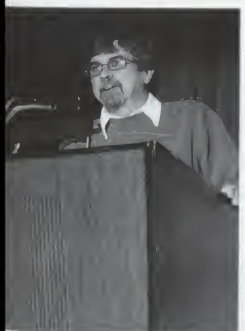


With the extreme popularity of the Broadway musical "Wicked" sisters sophomore, Natalie and her sister freshmen, Whitney Johnson performed a musical theater dance to "What is this Feeling?". The two girls were also dancers in "My Fair Lady".



On guitar junior Cody Richart plays and sings. Richart is very comfortable in front of an audience since he has been playing guitar since the young age of eleven and has been in front of a crowd a large portion of his life.



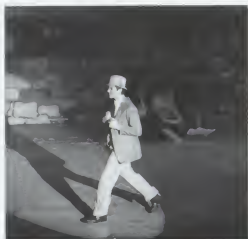






*My Fair Lady:
another spring
musical
success*







Sorice at the Moulin Rouge

REDDEN - Weeks of preparation and hundreds of dollars spent, prom proved to be worth the investment of time and money for many.

"I spent a large amount of money, though I'm not sure how much exactly. I was lucky though, I only tried on one dress and it was absolutely perfect so that is the one I bought. I also had my hair and make up done which took about an hour and a half. In the end, it was worth it though because I had an awesome time at prom," explained senior Krysta Perry.

Many of the other preparations are made by the student council which include budgeting and decorating the Expo Center, which was the location for the event.

"The day of prom we did not have to go to school because we spent the day putting up the decorations, it was a lot of work but it looked nice when

we were done," said junior student council member Keith Roy.

The theme of the prom this year was "Sorice at the Moulin Rouge." The theme was carried through with decorations exhibiting the famous windmill saying Moulin Rouge and other various decorations.

At prom, one of the special events that take place is the naming of the prom queen, king, prince, and princess. Winning these positions this year was Rachel Ramirez, prom Queen and Chad Biddle, prom King. Winning the titles of prom prince and princess were juniors, Leigha Smith and Reece Mussman. To many on the court just being nominated is a nice surprise in itself, as to winning the actual title.

Prom is not only a formal dance, but many view it as a good bye to the past. Many seniors go realizing

prom is one of the last times before graduation that all friends are gathered together.

With all the good aspects of prom there were a few down falls, though they were not many to ruin a night.

"The music selection was not that great. I expected much better for my senior prom, but really it was not that big of a deal because it was still fun just to be there with everyone," stated senior Jessica Bolint.

Prom does not end at the completion of the dance, most students plan different activities for the next day to spend more time together such as spending the day at the amusement park, going to a concert, or camping.

For most, the opportunity to go to prom happens twice so when it comes around prom is very special.



Just after being announced prom prince and princess, juniors Reece Mussman and Leigha Smith smile at one another. Both Smith and Mussman had been nominated for winter homecoming court.



While attending their second prom together seniors Kristopher Evans and Jessica Mitchell share a slow dance. Evans and Mitchell have been together for a long time and both plan to attend Ball State University after graduation.





After being announced king and queen seniors Chad Biddle and Rachel Ramirez share a ceremonial queen and king dance slow dance. Biddle was wrestler throughout high school and Ramirez was involved with soccer and theater.

While enjoying their time at prom seniors Natasha Miller, Randall Dawkins, Stephanie Garner and junior Cortie Wilson put their arms in the air while dancing to a fast song. Spending time with friends and significant others is one of the best parts of prom.



What is your opinion

Jessica Totini



The highlight of my night would be karaoke with my friends that I have known since we were little girls. We sang Spice Girls and it was a blast.

Senior

Jonathan Sanchez



I had a lot of fun at prom. The only thing I wish would have been different was the size of the dance floor. It should have been much larger than it was.

Senior

on Prom???

During a slow song senior Alexandra Stewart and junior Anthony Seigh share a moment and smile at one another. Both Seigh and Stewart have been actively involved in the theater throughout high school.









One chapter ends; another chapters opens

HODGES - Graduation, as freshman the thought of this completion of high school seems as though it will never come. As the school days pass and classes come to an end, freshman turn to sophomores and eventually seniors. The feat of graduation finally becomes a reality for the many students who felt the four years of school would never end.

Graduation seems to sneak up on the senior class each year and the ceremony is never complete without words of wisdom from wise speakers, a few members of the student body, and emotional good-byes between all.

Held on June 2, 2006, this year's graduation was unlike any that proceeded before it. Principal Richard Kirchner was the scheduled speaker

for the commencement ceremony as the school year, which had recently come to an end, was his last at Portage High School.

Kirchner shared memories and reminisced about the various achievements the class of 2006 was able to complete. The class of 2006 graduated with the most honors diplomas of any graduating class that had previously graced the seats of the football field or gymnasium floor before them. Among this amazing accomplishment many other areas of excellence were recognized.

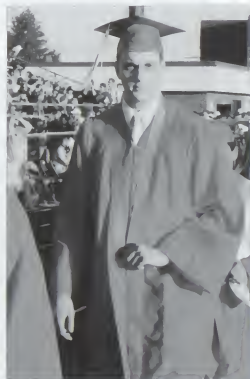
The ceremony continued with speeches from of Valedictorian Alexandra Stewart, Salutatorian Samantha Meints, and class president Radley Alcantara. Each student provided the student body with memories

from the past along with advice and a few thoughts for the future.

As the ceremony came to an end and each name had been read Kirchner once again congratulated the class wishing them well in all the future endeavors. Upon exiting the football field the students were greeted with hugs, tears, and pictures from their families and loved ones as they walked into the commons for the last time.

With the education and preparation for the future the time has now come for each of the graduating seniors to move on and overcome new challenges, yet one thing is for sure the memories and lessons learned from Portage High School will forever be engraved in the minds and hearts of each and every student.





As winner, Kristine Jones is awarded the title of Junior Miss. She graciously greets her audience by taking a final walk down the runway. Jones will carry on the esteemed title handed down by last years recipient Alexandra Stewart.



While performing in the talent portion of the program Katherine Hojnacki sings "Popular" from the musical "Wicked". Hojnacki went on to receive the scholarship for fourth runner up.

As the final night begins finalist Kathleen Hargarten makes her way down the runway as she graciously smiles to the adoring audience and judges. Hargarten was awarded the title of first runner up later in the evening.





'Footloose' and Fancy Free Junior Miss 2006

For countless years, the program Junior Miss has been awarding scholarships, bettering the education, and boosting the self-esteem of the contestants involved.

This year has proved to follow in the precedent of year's prior providing nothing short of an extremely professional positive program for young women to involve themselves in.

Sponsored by theater director Joe Stevens, the importance of the program and its reputation is undoubtedly of the utmost importance. Put together by last year's winner and state runner up, Alexandra Stewart, the program's character remained undeniably positive and successful. This year's theme chosen by Stewart was Footloose.

Centered on this theme the girls competed in various areas such as poise, talent, and an interview session with the judges prior to the competition. Two preliminary nights of competition were followed by a final night of competition on the night of May 20th.

Various awards were given along with the titles of the five finalists on this night. The award of first runner up went to Kathleen Hargarten while this year's title of Junior Miss was award granted to Kristine Jones. With the continuation of the tradition, Jones will then go on to compete in the state level representing Portage High School at the competition, which will be held toward the mid point of next school year.

Despite the excitement and joy of those, which were able to achieve these prestigious honors, the importance of the program lies not within the award winners but within those who believe that this programs goal is to create a sense of self-pride and accomplishment in a society where positives are not always concentrated upon.

This esteemed program allows all girls involved a chance and encouragement to further their education with the possibility of scholarships which in turn aid to better and enrich these young ladies lives for years and years to come.



For the talent portion of the program finalist Melanie Griffin performed a dance from a piece of the ballet "Swan Lake". Griffin was awarded the title of third runner up in the latter part of the program.

To kick off the night last year's winner Alexandra Stewart leads the girls in a humorous routine choreographed to the song "Hero". The dance started off the night on an entertaining and comical note.





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